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COUNTRY LIFE

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NOVEMBER 10, 1944

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producing a gross income of about

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To be offered for SALE by AUCTION (unless previously sold AS A WHOLE or in LOTS by Messrs. JACKSON STOPS, in conjunction with EDWARD H. FERRIS at THE GODDARD ARMS, SWINDON, on NOVEMBER 15, 1944.

Solicitors : Messrs. Lee, Bolton & Lee, 1, The Sanctuary, Westminster, S.W.1.
Auctioneers' Offices : Old Council Chambers, Castle Street, Cirencester (Tel. 334/5), and 1, Bath Road, Swindon, and as above.

BETWEEN CIRENCESTER AND FAIRFORD

In a quiet small Cotswold village.

CHARMING STONE-BUILT COUNTRY RESIDENCE

OF GREAT CHARACTER, TASTEFULLY MODERNISED AND IN FIRST-CLASS ORDER.

2 reception rooms, 4 bedrooms (2 with fitted basins), bathroom, etc. Good domestic offices.

Main electricity and water. Central heating. Telephone.
DELIGHTFUL GARDENS, ORCHARD, PADDOCK WITH AMPLE OUTBUILDINGS.

IN ALL ABOUT

3 ACRES

PRICE FREEHOLD £5,500

Details of Sole Agents : JACKSON STOPS, Land Agents, Cirencester (Tel. 334/5).

SUSSEX COAST ABOUT 12 MILES

London 50 miles. Station 1 mile.

AN ATTRACTIVE SUSSEX RESIDENCE

BUILT OF BRICK AND TILED, WITH PLEASING ELEVATIONS AND COMMANDING PLEASANT VIEWS. Hall, 4 reception rooms, 9 bedrooms, 3 dressing rooms, 4 bathrooms. Modern offices with every convenience. Main electricity and water.

CENTRAL HEATING. EXCELLENT OUTBUILDINGS. 5 COTTAGES. WELL-KEPT LAWNS AND KITCHEN GARDEN. SMALL FARMERY.

IN ALL 40 ACRES FOR SALE

POSSESSION MARCH, 1945

Inspected and recommended by JACKSON STOPS AND STAFF, 8, Hanover Street, London, W.1. (Tel.: Mayfair 3316/7.)



Grosvenor 3121
(3 lines)

WINKWORTH & CO.

48, CURZON STREET, MAYFAIR, LONDON, W.1

SURREY. Near DORKING

25 miles from London. On high ground with lovely views.

A FREEHOLD RESIDENTIAL ESTATE OF 150 ACRES WITH MODERATE SIZED MANSION



9 bedrooms, 2 dressing rooms, 8 bathrooms, 5 reception rooms. Ample staff accommodation. Main services. Central heating throughout. Stabling. Garage and farm buildings, 2 lodges, 8 cottages. Well matured pleasure grounds adorned by magnificent old trees. Stone-paved terrace walks. Wide-spreading lawns. Italian garden. Rose garden. Covered tennis court. Bowling green. Woodland walks skirting the park. Walled kitchen garden. Range of modern glasshouses. Vegetable garden. Model dairy. The whole property extends to

ABOUT 150 ACRES FREEHOLD FOR SALE

POSSESSION AFTER THE WAR.

Owner's Agents : WINKWORTH & Co., 48, Curzon Street, W.1.

ASCOT, BERKS

On high ground with open view. Almost adjoining golf course.

A VERY ATTRACTIVE MODERN RESIDENCE



8 bed and dressing rooms, 4 bathrooms, hall, 4 reception rooms. Main services. Fitted basins. Central heating.

GARAGE FOR 2-3 CARS WITH CHAUFFEUR'S ROOM.

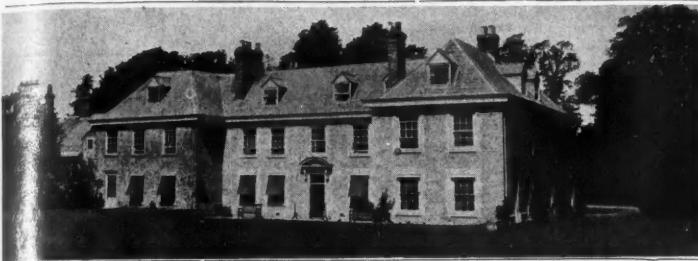
WELL-TIMBERED GARDENS AND GROUNDS ABOUT

4 ACRES FOR SALE.

POSSESSION AFTER THE WAR

Sole Agents : WINKWORTH & Co., 48, Curzon Street, London, W.1.

KNIGHT, FRANK & RUTLEY



IMMEDIATE POSSESSION.

Birmingham 13 miles, Derby 14 miles. Outskirts of Market Town, $\frac{1}{4}$ mile Station.

Sole Agents : Messrs. KNIGHT, FRANK & RUTLEY, 20, Hanover Square, W.1. (41,003)

LEICESTERSHIRE

WILLIAM AND MARY RESIDENCE AND ABOUT 100 ACRES
Standing about 300 ft. up, facing due South, with an attractive view over the Park, the Residence is built mostly of stone, with a slated roof, the main portion dating back to 1698. It is in good order and contains some beautiful old pine panelling and an exceptionally fine old oak staircase. Hall, 4 reception, 9 principal and 8 secondary bed, 5 bathrooms. Central heating throughout. Co.'s electricity and water. Independent hot-water system. Telephone. Septic tank drainage system. Stabling for 13. Garage for 5 cars. Stud groom's flat.

WELL-MATURED AND TIMBERED GARDENS with lawns, lily pond. Rose and water gardens, tennis court, walled kitchen garden, about 2 ACRES. In excellent condition. Orchard. Parkland.

FOR SALE FREEHOLD WITH POSSESSION AFTER THE WAR
Agents : KNIGHT, FRANK & RUTLEY, 20, Hanover Square, W.1. (27,637)



BUCKS AND BEDS BORDERS

Convenient for Main Line Station, London just over the hour. Secluded position on outskirts of Village.

XVth-CENTURY RESIDENCE containing 4 reception rooms, 7-8 bedrooms (basins h. & c.), 3 bathrooms.

Central heating. Constant hot water. All Main Services.

Cottage. Squash Court. Garage.

Attractive and inexpensive Gardens, sunk formal garden, tennis and other lawns. Productive kitchen garden, upwards of 3 ACRES.

FOR SALE FREEHOLD WITH POSSESSION

Agents : Messrs. KNIGHT, FRANK & RUTLEY, 20, Hanover Square, W.1. (39,324)



Mayfair 3771
(10 lines)

20, HANOVER SQUARE, LONDON, W.1.

Telegrams :
Galleries, Wesdo, London

NICHOLAS

(Established 1882)

1, STATION ROAD, READING; 4, ALBANY COURT YARD, PICCADILLY W.1

Telegrams :
"Nicholas, Reading"
"Nichenyer, Ploey, London"

BLACKMORE VALE COUNTRY, DORSET

A COMPACT PRODUCTIVE DAIRY AND STOCK-RAISING FARM OF 242 ACRES FOR SALE

About 400 ft. above sea level.

The soil is chiefly rich heavy loam. Some home fields are excellent sandy loam.

ATTRACTIVE FARM-HOUSE

Soundly built local stone with reed straw roof, containing 3 reception rooms, 6 bed-rooms, bathroom, kitchen, etc. Excellent range Farm Buildings include cow stall for 55, dairy, 5-stall stable, loose boxes, etc. Also 3 COTTAGES.

GOOD WATER SUPPLY FOR THE PRINCIPAL FIELDS AND PREMISES. FREE OF TITHE, SMALL LAND TAX.

POSSESSION MICHAELMAS, 1945.

PRICE £8,000 OR CLOSE OFFER

USUAL VALUATIONS.

Further particulars, apply to the above.

BASINGSTOKE (Outskirts)

A MEDIUM SIZE COUNTRY RESIDENCE FOR SALE CONVENIENTLY PLANNED ON TWO FLOORS ONLY.

Situated on high ground with good views, within 10 minutes' walk of the Main Line Station.

THE PROPERTY is in good order throughout, comprising 5 reception rooms, 5 bed-rooms (3 with fitted basins), 2 bathrooms, excellent offices.

ALL MAIN SERVICES CONNECTED. LARGE GARAGE AND OUTBUILDINGS.

THE GROUNDS, WHICH ARE A FEATURE, INCLUDE PLEASURE LAWNS,

ROSE AND FLOWER BEDS, PRODUCTIVE KITCHEN GARDEN AND MANY

FINE TREES AND SPECIMEN SHRUBS.

IN ALL ABOUT 1 ACRE

POSSESSION CAN BE OBTAINED AFTER THE WAR.

PRICE £4,000

Further particulars, apply Sole Agents, as above.

F. L. MERCER & CO.

SACKVILLE HOUSE, 40, PICCADILLY, W.1

Regent 2481

OXON—BUCKS BORDERS

Near Princes Risborough and High Wycombe. 800 ft. up.



A MODERN HOUSE with long drive. 3 reception rooms, 5 bedrooms, bathroom. Thermostatic hot-water supply. Electric light. Excellent garage and outbuildings. Matured gardens, orchard and woodland of 6 ACRES. Not available. **FREEHOLD, £3,500 or offer.** Possession.

F. L. MERCER & CO., 40, Piccadilly, W.1.

TRIANGLE—BEDFORD, ROYSTON AND CAMBRIDGE

Quiet seclusion without isolation.



A PERFECTLY MODERNISED TUDOR COTTAGE, full of old oak, linfold paneling, inglenook, etc. Hall lounge 24 ft., dining room, 5 bedrooms, fitted wash basins, bathroom, modern kitchen. Electricity, main water. Septic tank drainage. 2-car garage. Old barn. 2-roomed cottage. Old-world gardens, large orchard, in all 2 ACRES. Price includes built-in furniture, etc.

F. L. MERCER & CO., 40, Piccadilly, W.1.

NEAR SIDMOUTH AND BUDLEIGH SALTERTON, DEVON

400 ft. up, with views.



A CHARMING OLD-WORLD HOUSE, part late Tudor and remainder early Georgian. 2 floors only. 3 reception, 8 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. Electricity. Garage. Cottage. 2 secondary houses let and producing £117 per annum. Old-established gardens, tennis lawn, 4 enclosures of meadow land 16 ACRES. Hunting, fishing, golf. **PRICE, FREEHOLD, £7,750.** Possession by arrangement.

F. L. MERCER & CO., 40, Piccadilly, W.1.

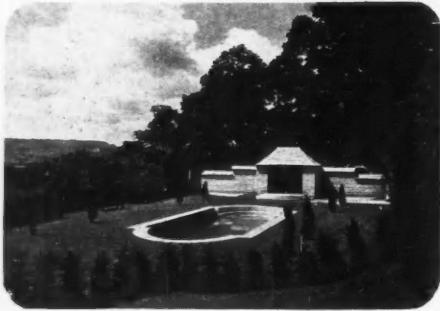


HAMPTON & SONS

6, ARLINGTON STREET, ST. JAMES'S, S.W.1
Regent 8222 (15 lines)



Telegrams: "Selanet, Piccy, London"



GLoucestershire

2½ miles of Cheltenham. High up, commanding beautiful views.

MODERNISED 18th-CENTURY COTSWOLD STONE RESIDENCE

10 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 4 reception rooms, oak-panelled entrance hall. Central heating. Main water, electricity and drainage. LOVELY PLEASURE GARDENS. LILY POOLS. ROSE GARDEN. ORCHARD. WALL FRUITS. TIMBERED PARKLANDS. SWIMMING POOL. HARD TENNIS COURT. GLASSHOUSES. STABLES. RIDING SCHOOL. 2 STONE COTTAGES.

ABOUT 40 ACRES IN ALL

A LOVELY PROPERTY ON WHICH MONEY HAS BEEN LAVIDASHED FOR SALE AT MANY THOUSANDS BELOW COST

Particulars from: HAMPTON & SONS, LTD., 6, Arlington Street, S.W.1 (Tel.: REG. 8222). (W.50,939)



SUSSEX

Between Haywards Heath and Brighton. 10 minutes' Main Line Station.

ATTRACTIVE RESIDENCE IN THE GEORGIAN STYLE



Lounge (26 ft. by 24 ft.) dining room (22 ft. 6 ins by 22 ft.), drawing room (22 ft. 9 ins by 14 ft. 6 ins.), study, 6 principal bedrooms (fitted basins), 2 bathrooms, 2 maids' rooms.

All Main Services.

LODGE. STABLING. GARAGES.

ABOUT 4½ ACRES including ORCHARD

PRICE, FREEHOLD, £7,500

Particulars from:
HAMPTON & SONS, LTD., 6, Arlington Street, S.W.1 (Tel.: REG. 8222).

BRANCH OFFICES: WIMBLEDON COMMON, S.W.19 (WIM. 0081).

IDEAL SMALL ESTATE

In a beautiful part of Surrey, 36 miles from London. 7 miles Dorking.

PICTURESQUE CHARACTER RESIDENCE

part XVIIth-century with every modern comfort. Lounge hall, 2 reception rooms, 5 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Kitchen with Esse cooker. Main electricity, power and water. Central heating. Modern drainage. Cottage. Small farmery. Garages. Pretty gardens, arable and pasture-land, in all about

27 ACRES

PRICE FREEHOLD £10,000

Immediate possession.

Recommended by: HAMPTON and SONS, LTD., 6, Arlington Street, S.W.1 (Tel.: REG. 8222). (S.34,080)



BISHOP'S STORTFORD (243)

CLASSIFIED PROPERTIES

(1/6 per line. Min. 3 lines.)

AUCTIONS

BRIDGE END

KIRKBY THORE, WESTMORLAND. An exceptionally valuable and attractive Freehold Agricultural and Sporting Estate with about 1 mile of Fishing in the River Eden. Vacant Possession on Completion. 232 ACRES (mostly in a ring fence). Well-built Dwelling-house (9 rooms). Extensive and substantially built farm buildings including cow byres for 61, 11-bay Dutch barn, 3-room cottage, etc. This is a splendid Stock-breeding, Dairy and Crop-producing Farm over which there is Good Shooting, and there are also Building Sites and Gravel Deposits. For Sale by PUBLIC AUCTION at 2.30 p.m. on TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 1944, at ST. ANDREW'S PARISH HALL, PENRITH. For further particulars apply to the Agents, Jos. M. Richardson & Son, 1, Cecil Street, Carlisle; Messrs. Clutterbuck Trevenan and Mawson, Solicitors, Bank Street, Carlisle; or to the Auctioneers, Messrs.

**PENRITH FARMERS & KIDS
AUCTION CO.,**
Penrith.

HAYWARDS HEATH
Detached Freehold Residence, LONGCROFT, MUSTER GREEN, within 10 minutes' walk of Station. 5 bedrooms, dressing room, 3 reception rooms. Garage. Good garden. VACANT POSSESSION March 25 next (probably sooner). To be SOLD BY AUCTION by Messrs. BRADLEY & VAUGHAN in conjunction with Mr. SCOTT PITCHER, NOVEMBER 21. Particulars and conditions of sale of the joint Auctioneers, both of Haywards Heath, Sussex.

By order of the Executors of
J. S. C. Robertson-Lordford, deceased.

KENT AND SUSSEX BORDERS

The Important Residential and Agricultural Property, THE HIGHAM HOUSE ESTATE, including HIGHAM HOUSE, ROBERTSBRIDGE (5 reception and 12 principal and secondary beds, usual domestic offices, etc., own water supply, electric light and central heating). All amenities, attractive gardens and grounds, garages and stabling, model farm buildings, 2 cottages and grass paddocks, in all 78 acres. MOAT FARM, SALEHURST, with attractive House, Buildings, 3 Cottages and 144 acres (including 37½ acres Orchard). STOCKS FARM, HINTERTHAM, with superior Residence of character. Buildings and 50 acres. NORTH FARM and THE LORD'S LAND, PLAYDEN, near Ryde-Mash Holdings, Accommodation Pasture and Arable Lands; and Sporting Woodlands at Beckley. Total area 1,083 acres. AUCTION at RYE, SUSSEX, at 2.30 p.m., NOVEMBER 15, 1944.

Particulars of the Auctioneers:
**ALFRED J. BURROWS, CLEMENTS,
WINCH & SONS,**
Ashford and Cranbrook, Kent.

AUCTIONS

SUSSEX

10 miles of Coast. Attractive SMALL COUNTRY ESTATE, 86 acres. Fine old-fashioned Farm Residence facing South-west, full of old oak, 6 bed and dressing rooms, 2 bathrooms, 3 reception rooms. Central heating. Company's Electricity. Telephone. Garage. Farmery and Cottage. FOOTLANDS FARM, STAPLECROSS. For Sale by AUCTION on NOVEMBER 17, 1944. Particulars of
GEERING & COLVER,
Hawkhurst, Kent.

FOR SALE

BUENOMOUTH (Ferndown). Charming Modern Residence standing in park-like grounds, about 4 acres. 4 large bedrooms (fitted basins), bathroom, attractive drawing room, dining room, dancing room, convenient offices. Excellent decorative condition. Garage. £6,500 freehold.—RUMSEY & RUMSEY, Broadstone, Dorset.

COUNTRY. For sale, Country Residence, 25 acres parkland, lodge, large gardens and greenhouses, numerous buildings, all conveniences. Freehold. Vacant possession.—Apply: COATES, Woodham Mortimer Place, Maldon, Essex.

COUNTRY Cottage within 7 miles Charing Cross. Freehold, with vacant possession. A chance seldom met with to acquire a really old and picturesque cottage standing high in unique cul-de-sac. Modernised. Easily run. Delightful old-world garden. Low ceilings. 2 reception, 4 bed, bath, adequate offices. Electric light. Garage and outbuildings. £3,000.—Sole Agents: W. ANDREWS & SONS, F.A.I., 75, Camberwell Church Street, S.E.5.

EXMOOR, on the fringes of, 3 miles from Dulverton. Gentleman's Residence of character, situated in the heart of the famous sporting country of Exmoor. The property contains 3 reception rooms, 5 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, good domestic quarters with Aga cooker. Modern conveniences such as central heating, Botto gas for lighting, good water supply and drainage. 2 cottages, paddock and orchard, in all about 5½ acres. Will be sold with immediate possession. Price, freehold, £3,600. Detailed particulars, apply A. J. COURT, Estate Agents, High Street, Dulverton, or VAN ALLEN & CO., LTD., 3, Marine Crescent, Seaton, Devon.

FOR SALE

FAMILY RESIDENCE. Vacant possession. And small Mixed Farm, let off. 135½ acres. For Sale.—Write: Box 348, SMITHS', 100, Fleet Street, E.C.4.

HERTFORDSHIRE. For sale, Orchard, about 1½ acres, ideal for house or bungalow, situated in village about 30 miles from London. Excellent bus service to main-line station. Possession Christmas. £350.—V. T. DURRANT, 30, Lovers Walk, Dunstable, Beds.

SUSSEX, near Henfield (12 miles Brighton). Attractive freehold Country Estate of 120 acres. The residence contains 9 bedrooms, 3 reception rooms, billiards room, maid's room, 3 bathrooms, spacious domestic offices. Garage for 2 cars. Central heating. Main water and electricity. Outbuildings comprising stable, coach-house, harness room, recreation room and windmill. Delightful garden with lily pond, lawns and kitchen gardens. Swimming pool, lake. Entrance lodge and 2 cottages. £12,500.—Further particulars from REASON & TICKLE, 167, North Street, Brighton.

WOODHALL SPA, near the coast 25 miles. In forest-like surroundings amidst bracken and heather. Golf, shooting and fishing handy. A Modern Small Residence of some quality. Entrance and garden halls, cloakroom, loggia, long lounge, dining room, 3 double and 2 single bedrooms, glazed bathroom, good domestic offices. Garage for 2 cars, and billiard room over. Main electricity. Telephone. Own water. 17½ acres grassland. Freehold, £3,000. Possession in a few months.—Messrs. GALE, Estate Offices, Skegness.

WANTED

HERTS, WEST. Urgently required. Unfurnished Cottage, or Small House of character. 3-4 bedrooms, 2 reception rooms, modern kitchen, garage, main electricity, telephone. Within reasonable distance of station. To rent, or would consider buying.—KEMP, 5, Fitzroy Square, W.1.

HOME COUNTIES. Urgently required, furnished and unfurnished properties for genuine applicants. Particulars to WILLIAM WILLETT LTD., Sloane Square, S.W.1 (Sloane 8141).

LAKE DISTRICT. Wanted to purchase, Small House or Well-built Cottage within a few miles of Ambleside.—Box 188.

SCOTLAND. Wanted to purchase or rent, furnished or unfurnished, West or Northwest coast of Scotland. Country House, 3-4 public, 6-8 bedrooms, etc. Salmon and sea trout fishing an asset.—Box 293.

SHREWSBURY or district. Required, large House (20 to 24 bedrooms) suitable for school. Electric light. Central heating. Good water supply essential.—Apply: Miss LLOYD-WILLIAMS, Henle Hall, St. Martin's, near Oswestry, Shropshire.

SOMERSET or NORTH DEVON. Wanted to rent or purchase, Small House of character. 3 reception, 4 bedrooms, bath, garage and outbuildings. Good garden and paddock. Isolation no objection.—Box 286.

SUFFOLK or NORFOLK. Titled gentleman seeks small Residential Farm, about 25-100 acres, with period House, having modern conveniences. Price up to about £6,000. No immediate hurry for possession. Details in first instance to WOODCOCK & SON, Estate Agents, Ipswich.

SURREY and SUSSEX. TREVOR ESTATES LTD. have genuine clients waiting to purchase suitable properties. Please send full details to them in confidence to 20, Piccadilly, London, W.1 (Tel.: Regent 3571).

SURREY or SUSSEX. Wanted to purchase, immediate possession. Freehold House, 2 reception, 6 bedrooms, all main services, central heating. Acre garden. Within 2 miles main line station.—Replies to: JAMES, 15, Grape Street, High Holborn, W.C.2.

SUSSEX. Large Georgian or Queen Anne House required to rent by girls' school for post-war occupation. Numbers about 70 and staff. Ample water and main services essential. Preferably within 15 miles of the sea, eight miles from Lewes or Ditchling.—Box 227.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS or district. Wishes to buy Freehold Detached House approx. 5 bedrooms, 3 reception, garden, main services. Near bus route. Sunny position. Or would exchange for similar near sea, Boscombe, Bournemouth.—Box 286.

5, MOUNT ST.,
LONDON, W.1

CURTIS & HENSON

Grosvenor 3131 (3 lines)
Established 1875

SURREY.
In beautifully wooded country, near Limpsfield Common.
Oxted Station 1½ miles.



OLD-WORLD RESIDENCE OF EXCEPTIONAL CHARM, 500 ft. above sea level, with panoramic views, 4 reception, 9 bed, 3 bathrooms. Companies' water, and electric light. Modern drainage. Central heating. Large. Cottage. Bungalow. Ornamental grounds. Orchard, land and fields, in all about **20 ACRES**. FOR SALE FREEHOLD (POST-WAR POSSESSION). Or it be sold with less land and without the bungalow. Other particulars from: CURTIS & HENSON, above. (15,400)

SURREY

NEAR WALTON HEATH GOLF COURSE.

Tadworth Station 6 minutes' walk.

A WELL-BUILT MODERN HOUSE

Facing South, and situated away from other buildings. 3 reception rooms, 9 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. Parquet floors. All main services. Central heating.

DOUBLE GARAGE WITH FLAT OVER.

VERY PLEASANT GARDENS

1½ ACRES

FOR SALE FREEHOLD

POSSESSION ON COMPLETION.

Apply: CURTIS & HENSON, 5, Mount Street, W.1. (14,578)

SOUTH DEVON
Near Chudleigh Station. Newton Abbot 5 miles.



A SMALL COMPACT ESTATE with fishing rights in the River Teign on the property. Beautifully situated Residence with delightful views over wooded country. 4 reception rooms, 12 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms. Main electric light and water. Central heating. Stabling and garages. Ballif's house, lodge and excellent Home Farm. Charming orchards. Orchard, wood and pasture land, in all **75 ACRES**. FOR SALE FREEHOLD. POST-WAR POSSESSION. Apply: CURTIS & HENSON, 5, Mount Street, W.1. (14,583)

Grosvenor 1553
(4 lines)

GEORGE TROLLOPE & SONS

(ESTABLISHED 1778)

25, MOUNT ST., GROSVENOR SQ., W.1

Hobart Place, Eaton Sq.,
68, Victoria St.,
Westminster, S.W.1

HERTFORDSHIRE

perfect rural surroundings 400 ft. above sea. Few minutes' walk of Station with frequent service of trains to King's Cross in under 36 minutes.



FOR SALE FREEHOLD WITH EARLY POSSESSION

THIS UNUSUALLY DELIGHTFUL HOUSE, designed and built by a well-known architect for his own occupation 9 bedrooms (h. & c. basins), 3 baths, lounge hall and 3 reception rooms. All main services. Central heating. STABLING, GARAGE, COTTAGE, WELL TIMBERED GROUNDS AND EXCELLENT PADDOCK, in all **7 ACRES**.

Full particulars of the Sole Agents: GEORGE TROLLOPE & SONS, 25, Mount Street, London, W.1. (c. 4709)

SOMERSET ATTRACTIVE FREEHOLD ESTATE ON THE SLOPES OF THE POLDEN HILLS

Boudoir, 11 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 4 reception rooms.

Main services. Central heating. Telephone.

Excellent and ample outbuildings, 3 cottages.

ATTRACTIVE GROUNDS.

MANSION AND GROUNDS extend to about **14 ACRES** (mostly requisitioned).

100 ACRES OF PASTURE WHICH IS LET.



Further details may be obtained from the Owner's Agents, as above, in conjunction with W. H. PALMER & SONS, York Buildings, Bridgwater; JOHN D. WOOD & CO., 23, Berkeley Square, W.1. (7060.)

3, MOUNT ST.,
LONDON, W.1

RALPH PAY & TAYLOR

Grosvenor
1032-33

INEXPENSIVE COUNTRY PROPERTIES JUST AVAILABLE. FOR SALE WITH POSSESSION ON COMPLETION OF PURCHASE.

QUIET AND RESTFUL ESSEX

60 miles. Yachting facilities.



FIFTEENTH CENTURY, MELLOWED RED BRICK.
3 reception, 8 bedrooms, 4 baths. Main electricity and water. Central heating. Stabling, garages. Matured gardens and orchard about **2 ACRES**. FREEHOLD, £5,500.

SUNNINGDALE

Close to Station and Golf Course.



REALLY NICE OLD HOUSE on 2 floors. 3 reception, 7 bedrooms, bathroom. All main services. Garage (3). Large barn. Matured grounds, orchard, **2 ACRES**. ONE OF THE FEW FREEHOLDS in the district. ONLY £6,500.

WITHIN THE GREEN BELT

Potters Bar 3 miles—Station 1 mile.



ARCHITECT-BUILT (1933). Green pantiled roof. 500 ft. up, magnificent views (South-west). 2 good reception, 5 bedrooms. Polished floors. Main electricity and water. Radiators. 2 garages. TERRACED GARDEN, spinney of oaks and pines, about **1 ACRE**. Valuable road frontages. FREEHOLD, £5,500.

All these Properties have been inspected personally, and are recommended by Messrs. RALPH PAY & TAYLOR, 3, Mount Street, W.1.

OXFORD
4637/8.

JAMES STYLES & WHITLOCK

CHIPPING
NORTON
39

OXFORD & CHIPPING NORTON

KENT—SURREY—SUSSEX BORDERS

London 25 miles.

A VERY CHOICE RESIDENTIAL FARM

GENUINE MODERNISED TUDOR FARMHOUSE RESIDENCE, built of mellowed brick with some exterior timbering and containing many period features including a quantity of old oak. 3 sitting rooms, 7 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. Main electric light and water supply. Telephone. Pleasure, vegetable and fruit gardens, orchard and spinney. Garages, etc. 3 cottages. Farm buildings.

THE LAND, formerly all pasture, has been found eminently suitable for stock raising, being almost completely surrounded by a ring fence. The property would make a good Dairy Farm. In all, just over

224 ACRES. PRICE, FREEHOLD, £13,000

EARLY VACANT POSSESSION.

Recommended by the Sole Agents: JAMES STYLES & WHITLOCK, Oxford.

OXFORDSHIRE COTSWOLDS

Burford 5 miles.

A DISTINCTIVE POST-WAR COUNTRY HOME

PERFECT OLD STONE-BUILT AND STONE-TILED COTSWOLD RESIDENCE OF CHARACTER. Lounge hall, 4 reception rooms, 13 principal bedrooms, 3-4 servants' bedrooms, 4 bathrooms. Main electric light. Ample water supply. Central heating. Telephone.

Garages, stabling and farm buildings. Good cottage (1-2 more possibly available). Beautiful grounds intersected by a stream and an old moat. Kitchen garden, walled fruit garden, and large paddock, in all about

12 ACRES

THE RESIDENCE is at present requisitioned for the duration of the war by the W.L.A., who pay a nominal rental of £168 p.a.

PRICE, FREEHOLD, £13,500

Recommended by JAMES STYLES & WHITLOCK, of Oxford.

23, MOUNT ST.,
GROSVENOR SQ., LONDON, W.1

A COUNTRY HOUSE OF EXCEPTIONAL CHARACTER
Beautifully fitted and appointed throughout and easily maintained.

SURREY—BETWEEN DORKING AND LEATHERHEAD



Close to such famous beauty spots as Box Hill, Leith Hill and Ranmore Common. High up with delightful views. Hall, 3 reception rooms, 6-8 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. Oak floors. Luxury bathrooms. Tiled domestic offices. All main services. Electric panel heating. Garage for 2 cars. Well-timbered Gardens of singular charm. Tennis court. Kitchen garden, etc.

ABOUT 2 ACRES

The whole place is in beautiful order, tastefully decorated and presents an unique opportunity.

**FREEHOLD FOR SALE
10,000 GUINEAS**

IMMEDIATE POSSESSION.
Joint Sole Agents : F. L. MERCER & Co., 40, Piccadilly, W.1; and WILSON & Co., 23, Mount Street, W.1.

Grosvenor
1441

WEST SURREY BORDER

Lovely position, an hour from London.



BEAUTIFULLY APPOINTED MODERN HOUSE OF GREAT CHARM. In perfect order, with every comfort and convenience. 12 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, 4 reception. Garages. 3 cottages. Lovely gardens, pasture and woodland. At present Let. Possession after the war.

40 ACRES. FOR SALE

Agents : WILSON & Co., 23, Mount Street, W.1.

And at
ALDERSHOT

ALFRED PEARSON & SON

FLEET, HANTS. Tel.: 118.

And at
FARNBOROUGH

PICTURESQUE COTTAGE-STYLE RESIDENCE. In a very pleasant situation on a bus route and 1½ miles from Main Line Station. Close to small residential town. 5 bedrooms, bathroom, lounge hall, cloakroom, 2 reception rooms, etc. Main services, 2 garages. WELL TIMBERED AND SECLUDED GARDEN WITH ROUGH MEADOW, in all

3½ ACRES

PRICE £4,000

WITH POSSESSION IN THE SPRING

WOULD MAKE IDEAL SMALL HOTEL, NURSING HOME, etc. A WELL-PLACED RESIDENCE with modern conveniences, standing in its own grounds in a high-class residential area, only a few minutes' walk from Main Line Station and well-known Golf Club. 9 bed and dressing rooms, 2 bathrooms, cloakroom, 3 reception rooms, sun room, domestic offices with servants' hall. Main services. Aga cooker and central heating. Useful and spacious outbuildings. Secluded grounds. **3½ ACRES.**

ONLY £3,500

WITH DEFERRED POSSESSION

IDEAL FOR DAILY TRAVELLER TO LONDON, preparing for after-the-war occupation. Well-appointed Residence only a few minutes from Main Line Station, also Golf Club. 6 bedrooms, bathroom, 3 reception rooms, etc. Main services. Garage. Small easily worked garden.

ONLY £2,600, FREEHOLD

WANTED

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SECLUDED OLD-WORLD GROUNDS, 16 ACRES.
£8,000, WITH POSSESSION BY ARRANGEMENT

IN PICTURESQUE HANTS VILLAGE, AT BARGAIN PRICE. A WELL-PLACED COUNTRY RESIDENCE completely modernised and brought up to date 6 years ago, 5 main bedrooms, 5 maids' ditto, 2 bathrooms, 3 reception rooms, excellent offices. Companies' water, electric light and power, gas. Modern drainage system. Central heating throughout. Basins in bedrooms. Garage for 4 cars. EXCELLENT WELL-EQUIPPED SECONDARY RESIDENCE. Fine gymnasium or squash court. **2 ACRES.**

At present requisitioned but for sale at the low price of £5,500.

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In a beautiful country district, 3 miles from Knockhold station and 6 miles from Sevenoaks. On high ground.



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HERTS

About 16 miles from Town. Short bus ride from Electric Trains.

TO BE SOLD

MOST ATTRACTIVE HOUSE IN THE COTTAGE STYLE

BRICK AND TILE, PARTLY CREEPER CLAD. NICE OLD-WORLD GARDEN.

Small lounge hall, drawing room about 10 x 17. Dining room, study, 5 bedrooms, dressing room, bathroom. Good offices, with tiled floors. Electric light. Gas laid on.

GARDEN INCLUDES LAWN, FRUIT TREES, SMALL KITCHEN GARDEN, ETC.

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A specially designed and exceptionally well-fitted, contract built, modern COTTAGE-STYLE RESIDENCE

standing in BEAUTIFUL GROUNDS of 1 ACRE with EN-TOUT-CAS TENNIS COURT. Situate within 3 miles of centre of Bournemouth, close to lovely Chines and Beaches, also well-known Parkstone Golf Course and renowned Poole Harbour.

Lounge (26 ft. in length) with polished oak floor, dining room, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms.

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BRICK-BUILT GARAGE. ALL SERVICES. MAIN DRAINAGE.

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Telegrams:
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300 ft. up on gravel soil in lovely wooded country.

THIS BEAUTIFUL TIMBER-FRAMED HOUSE

RESTORED BY A LEADING CONTEMPORARY ARCHITECT AND QUITE UNUSUALLY WELL EQUIPPED IN EVERY WAY.

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A VERY CHOICE PROPERTY.

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Adjoining the Golf Course.

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The house stands in over 6 ACRES of secluded grounds with good natural timber and is on bus route. Built in 1937, regardless of cost, it is in immaculate condition. The rooms have large windows, and ceilings are 9 ft. or 10 ft. high. Good hall with cloakroom. 3 large sitting rooms facing south, which can be opened out to make one very fine room nearly 70 ft. long for parties and dances, etc. Small study, model kitchen, etc.

4 principal bedrooms (built-in wardrobes, etc.) arranged in suites with 3 luxurious Froy bathrooms. Self-contained wing of 5 bedrooms and bathroom for staff. Heated garage for 3 cars.

MAIN ELECTRICITY AND WATER. CENTRAL HEATING THROUGHOUT CONSTANT HOT WATER.

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Very highly recommended by the Sole Agents: JOHN D. WOOD & CO., 23, Berkeley Square, London, W.1, who have full particulars. (41,756)

VACANT POSSESSION SUSSEX

1½ miles from Main Line Station on bus route. 400 ft. above sea level with lovely distant view.

PICTURESQUE OLD SUSSEX FARMHOUSE TYPE OF RESIDENCE 8 bed (5 with h. & c. basins), 3 bath, 3 reception. Central heating. Main electricity and water.

GARAGE FOR 3. LOVELY GARDEN.

10 ACRES

COTTAGE WITH 6 ROOMS AND BATHROOM.

PRICE £8,500

Inspected and recommended by JOHN D. WOOD & CO. (31,640)



FOR SALE WITH IMMEDIATE POSSESSION

BETWEEN CHESHAM AND HEMEL HEMPSTEAD

½ mile from village near a green, and bus passes the property.

CHARMING MODERN HOUSE with 4 bed, bath, 2 reception. Garage. Main electricity, gas and water. Lovely open position with nice views. Well laid out garden and orchard, etc., in all about

3 ACRES. PRICE £5,000

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In an attractive situation. About 22 miles from London.

MODERN HOUSE

5 bedrooms, bathroom, 4 reception rooms.

COMPANIES' ELECTRICITY AND WATER

MODERN DRAINAGE



ATTRACTIVE GARDENS

GARDENER'S COTTAGE

In all nearly

3 ACRES

PRICE £7,500 FREEHOLD

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BERKS. 3 miles Taplow Station. Lovely views. MODERNISED GEORGIAN RESIDENCE. Billiard room, 3 reception, 2 bath, 7 bed. Main electricity and water. Central heating. Telephone. Garage, stabling. Cottage (let). Charming gardens and paddock, 2 ACRES. £28,000 with possession 3 months.

TRESIDDER & CO., 77, South Audley Street, W.1. (16,241)

110 ACRES

£11,500

DEVON. Sporting district with duck and snipe shooting. STONE-BUILT MANOR HOUSE. 12 or more bed (some fitted basins h. & c.), 3 bath, 3 reception, billiard room. Main electricity and water. Central heating. Telephone. Garage, stabling. Cage, pleasure gardens. 2 Farms, each with houses and buildings (let). In addition 500 ACRES SHOOTING rented.

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On high ground in wooded surroundings above a well-known yachting centre. The House, thoroughly modernised, is in excellent order, with Co.'s electricity and water. It contains spacious rooms with lounge hall, cloakroom, 3 reception, 8 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms. Good cottage, garage and outbuildings. Old-world timbered galleries and paddock nearly 5 ACRES, FREEHOLD. Early possession. It is situated in the Isle of Wight—a locality worthy of consideration by the discriminating purchaser who dislikes present mainland prices. It will shortly possess one of the best aerial services in England and be within

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28b, ALBEMARLE ST.,
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AN UP-TO-DATE COUNTRY HOUSE OF CHARACTER.



Main electricity and water. Central heating.
Lounge hall, 3 reception, dozen bedrooms, 3 bathrooms.
Hunter Stabling. Farmery. 3 Cottages.
Very Pleasant Gardens. Excellent Pasture.
Hard Tennis Court. Squash Court.
24 ACRES

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In a splendid position some 400 ft. above sea level, facing South and commanding lovely views over open country.

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built to the design of an architect in 1933.

2 reception rooms, 5 bedrooms, bathroom.

Main electricity, gas and water. Modern drainage.

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Well matured gardens and a small spinney, in all

ABOUT ½ ACRE

FOR SALE WITH VACANT POSSESSION

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WILTS-GLOS BORDERS

In a much favoured district, a few miles from Cirencester.

DELIGHTFUL STONE-BUILT RESIDENCE OF COTSWOLD TYPE

4 reception, 11 bed and dressing rooms, 4 bathrooms.

Main electricity and water. Central heating. Model Farmery.

Delightful gardens, excellent pasture. In all

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FOR SALE FREEHOLD

The property is at present under requisition by the War Department.

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NEAR HAYWARDS HEATH

Delightful situation commanding beautiful views of the South Downs and within 10 miles of the sea.

A WELL-BUILT OLD HOUSE

Modernised and in first-rate order.



Lounge hall, 3 reception rooms, 9 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms.

All main services.

Garage for 4. Stabling for 5 with rooms over.

The beautifully timbered grounds are well matured and include tennis and other lawns, flower gardens, orchard, kitchen and fruit gardens, in all

ABOUT 4 ACRES

FOR SALE FREEHOLD

Agents: OSBORN & MERCER, as above. (16,927)

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EXCHANGE WALK, NOTTINGHAM.

Also at
MELTON MOWBRAY

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By Direction of Louther Estates, Ltd.

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LOT 1.—The well-built and compact COUNTRY RESIDENCE AND HUNTING-BOX, STUD HOUSE, THE HOME OF THE LATE EARL OF LONSDALE, K.G., G.C.V.O., with VACANT POSSESSION, containing lounge hall, 3 reception rooms, 14 bed and dressing rooms, 5 bathrooms, etc., conveniently situated in beautiful country close to Oakham, with 4 GOOD COTTAGES, SUPERB STABLING, EXCELLENT GARAGES, KENNELS, OUTBUILDINGS, PROLIFIC GARDENS with heated GREENHOUSES, Cordon Fruit Trees, etc., delightful GROUNDS AND GRASS AND ARABLE LAND

AREA 36a. 0r. 29p.

LOT 2.—THE STUD STABLING, KENNELS, BUILDINGS AND RICH FARM LAND

" 46a. 2r. 4p.

LOT 3.—THE WELL-KNOWN STUD FARM with MANAGER'S HOUSE, 5 COTTAGES, FARM AND STUD BUILDINGS, PADDOCKS AND FERTILE GRASS AND ARABLE LAND (mostly with VACANT POSSESSION). The land is of first-class quality, comprising some of the best in the country, and the soil is of great depth and will grow excellent crops of corn and POTATOES.

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LOTS 4 and 5.—FIVE STONE-BUILT COTTAGES.

THE ABOVE LOTS WILL FIRST BE OFFERED AS A WHOLE.

LOTS 6 and 7.—TWO FIELDS OF ALLOTMENTS.

" 155a. 3r. 32p.

LOT 8.—LANGHAM LODGE FARM. An excellent MIXED FARM (tenant, Mr. H. C. Squires.) ...

LOTS 9-18.—RICH ACCOMMODATION GRASS [AND ARABLE LAND with frontages to good roads, some with VACANT POSSESSION

TOTAL AREA 586a. 2r. 14p.

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Particulars (price 2s. each) with Plan and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the Auctioneers, Exchange Walk, Nottingham (Tel. 46741), and Cattle Market, Melton Mowbray.

Solicitors: Messrs. Ellis & Ellis, 2 and 3, The Sanctuary, Westminster, S.W.1 (Tel.: Abbey 1047).

JAMES PHILLIPS & SONS

ESTATE AGENTS, MINEHEAD. Tel.: 784/5.

WEST SOMERSET

On the outskirts of Minehead.

A VERY ATTRACTIVE FREEHOLD RESIDENCE

Situated in a charming setting with privacy and seclusion, in the hamlet of Periton on the outskirts of Minehead (half a mile from the town).

COMPRISES

5 bedrooms, bathroom, 2 reception, large kitchen, usual offices, garaging.



NUMEROUS OUTBUILDINGS, INCLUDING STABLING.

1 ACRE, 1 ROOD, 19 PERCH

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FREEHOLD, £8,250

EARLY POSSESSION.

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NEAR OKEHAMPTON. 80 Acres i. complete ring fence (42 grass). Charmin House in attractive garden, 4 bed, 2 reception, bath. Electric light. Accredite buildings and good Cottage. All in excellen condition.

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Prompt inspection advised.

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Glorious position. Heavily timbered. Near Abergavenny. The Residence 400 years old, built by the monks. 3-ft. thick walls, panelling. 2 large sitting rooms, 2 large bedrooms, bath. (Extensions could easily be made). Farm buildings. Ancient grazing rights over the Black Mountains.

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**ADJOINING AND OVERLOOKING WORPLESDON
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A beautiful position. 1 mile from station with electric trains to Waterloo.



MODERN LABOUR-SAVING HOUSE

Beautifully built and fitted. 3 reception rooms, 6 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Main water, electricity. Central heating throughout. Fitted basins in bedrooms.

GARAGE FOR 2 LARGE CARS.

DELIGHTFUL GARDEN AND GROUNDS
together with PROLIFIC ORCHARD, in all about

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c.4

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4 reception rooms, billiard room, 8 bed and dressing rooms, 2 bathrooms, usual offices. All companies' mains. Central heating and gas. Garage for 2 cars, stabling.

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**C.2
BISHOP'S STORTFORD DISTRICT**

In undulating rural country yet with local buses passing the drive.



HANDSOME GABLED RESIDENCE

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Within easy reach of Salisbury and Stonehenge.

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carefully restored in good order with large stone mullioned windows, oak floors, etc.



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WITH CAVITY WALLS.

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**ABOUT 4 MILES HAYWARDS
HEATH**

c.3



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About 10 miles from the coast, amid pleasant surroundings.

3 reception, 9 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Electric light, modern conveniences. Kitchen. Lodge, garage. IDEAL GROUNDS, extending to

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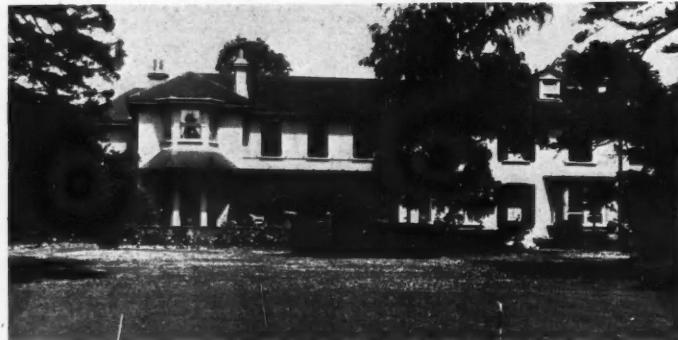
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*Nestling under the South Downs, close to Devil's Dyke, in
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Accommodation on two floors only comprises 5 principal bedrooms (3 fitted lavatory basins), 2 principal bathrooms, 3 servants' bedrooms and bathroom, 3 fine reception rooms, lounge-hall, gentleman's cloakroom, sun lounge, kitchen with Aga cooker, maid's sitting-room, and offices. central heating.



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ELECTRICITY. GAS AND WATER. MODERN DRAINAGE.

COTTAGE. STABLING AND MINIATURE THEATRE.
GARAGE AND OUTBUILDINGS.

BEAUTIFUL MATURED GROUNDS OF
ABOUT 10 ACRES

WITH PRETTY STREAM, LAKE, ORCHARD,
TERRACED LAWNS, AND ROCKERIES,
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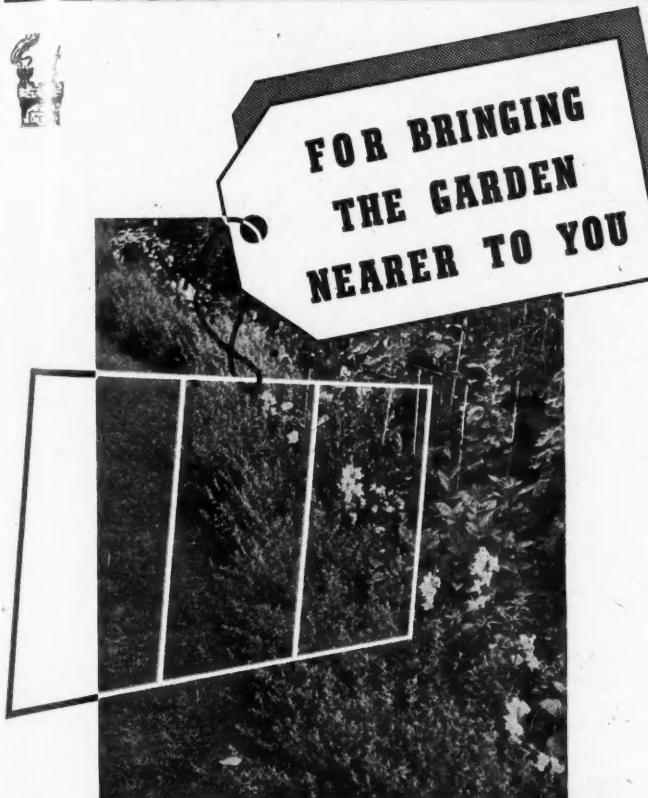


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THE 'STREAMLINED' FUEL



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BEACON
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GINGER ALE
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Wishful drinking for the time being!



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DORVILLE
FOR THE WELL-DRESSED WOMAN

COUNTRY LIFE

Vol. XCVI. No. 2495

NOVEMBER 10, 1944



Harlip

MISS PATRICIA MOUNTBATTEN

Miss Mountbatten, the 20-year-old daughter of Admiral Lord and Lady Louis Mountbatten, joined the Women's Royal Naval Service in May, 1943. She is serving at a South Coast naval establishment

COUNTRY LIFE

EDITORIAL OFFICES :
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W.C.2.

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BALANCE OF PRODUCTION

MR. HUDSON is doing a most useful piece of work, outside his administrative duties, in keeping before the people of this country—and particularly the business people—the fallacy which underlies the supposed antagonism between the interests of home agriculture and those of our export industries after the war. His address to the Rotary Club of London was clear and cogent. He goes on hitting the right nails on the head, and gradually they are being driven home. One of his best points is the nature of the change which is taking place in the agricultural scope and methods of other nations and particularly of the great primary-producing countries of the past. The policy of exploiting the stored-up fertility of virgin soils is now seen to be suicidal. Exhausting the land in order to sell large quantities of cheap food to industrial countries and so under-cut those countries' home production not only does not pay but is admitted to have been leading direct to home starvation. Emphasis is everywhere being laid on the need—recognised by good farmers since the world began—to put back into the land what is taken from it; to preserve the soil, not to cash in on its fertility.

This naturally means a change in the direction of mixed farming systems and away from specialisation and the endless repetition of a single crop. It is to be noted that the costs of such rotational systems are bound to be higher than those of mere soil plunder. Food prices will not only rise in the countries of production but the possibility of large profits on foreign sales will diminish, and large surpluses are much less likely to be available for disposal at glut prices. Further if the producer countries concerned faithfully carry out the undertakings entered into at Hot Springs to raise as rapidly as possible the nutritional standards of their own peoples there must be more and more concentration on their part on the production of livestock and livestock products for the home market. How is this contraction in exportable cheap food surpluses from large-scale producing countries likely to fit in with our own admittedly difficult situation so far as our export industries are concerned?

It is quite clear that however efficient and well contrived our own agriculture may be we shall still require to import, as Mr. Hudson says, substantial quantities of food from abroad. With our present population we can never hope to be self-sufficient and, if our farming is to be well-balanced and fertility-conserving, we shall have to cut down what the Minister calls "our terrific acreages of wheat and potatoes." We, like the larger farming countries, are bound to concentrate on increasing and improving our livestock. The food we require over and above what we ourselves produce must, like many

raw materials of industry, be paid for by our exports and for a time at least the resources our exports put at our command are unlikely to cover all that we should like. We must cut down therefore on things other than necessities. Many raw materials are sheer necessities for they cannot be produced at home in any circumstances. If therefore we must economise it is surely most reasonable to keep our supplies of imported food as low as possible rather than economise in raw materials. The contribution which home agriculture can make by enabling us to bring in more raw materials than otherwise for our industries is obvious. To quote Mr. Hudson again: "In due course as our overseas financial resources increase and as our standard of living rises, we shall be able to absorb not only the food which countries overseas wish to send us but also the food which a healthy and well-balanced agriculture in this country can produce and produce too at prices comparing not unfavourably with average world prices."

BURDENS

A SONG of burdens, such as press
Upon the sun, laden with light;
Or stars, with little less
Even when the moon is bright.
The burden of the trees, that lift
Each year a load of leaves;
Or flowers near the ground, whose gift
Is what the bee achieves
With lifelong labour, a dram
Or not so much, the piled-up gold
Of pollen being but fairy dust,
By human currency a sham.
The burden of the corn-stalk, old
In the ear; the burden of the sword
Weary of blood, welcoming rust
And sleep at the end of the fight.
The burden of man, forgiveness, the word
That weighs more after death's goodnight.

RICHARD CHURCH.

POST-WAR FOOD POLICY IN U.S.A.

IT is reassuring to find the extent to which balanced production, as preached by Mr. Hudson in this country, is reflected by closely similar constructive declarations in the United States. In a Report issued by the U.S. Department of Agriculture earlier in the year we find the same insistence on nutrition (Adequate Food and Fiber for All), on better services for the countryside (Parity for All Rural People), on "Better Marketing at Lower Cost." So far as the international basis of after-war farming is concerned it is enlightening to find the Regional Committees declaring their belief that "with due consideration for military necessities, we should evolve programs that will tend to reduce domestic production of agricultural commodities that cannot meet world competition and yield an American level to producers, without tariffs or other forms of Federal subsidy." "This does not mean," the Report continues, "that we should suddenly and completely stop producing those protected commodities. It means only that their production should be discouraged in areas in which better alternatives are available and in sub-marginal areas where costs, in cash outlay, human effort and wasted soils, exceed returns."

CLUMBER PARK: AN INNOVATION?

THE three great adjoining estates of Welbeck, Clumber, and Thoresby, originally part of Sherwood Forest, are collectively known as the Dukeries. Clumber, which became the seat of the Dukes of Newcastle in the eighteenth century, was pulled down before the war but has still a domain thirteen miles round. The National Trust is appealing for £45,000 with which to secure its 3,800 acres—roughly at £12 an acre. The land is predominantly woodland, with great glades of greensward and a lake two miles long created by Brown out of the mediæval Chase. Lying as it does on the east fringe of the Nottingham-Sheffield region, it is of great importance that this historic expanse of park and forest should be put to the best possible use. So great, that the question arises whether part of it might not with general advantage be used more fully than as public

open space only: as sites for some kind of carefully devised, organised, inland recreation centre. The sea coasts are congested; the highlands unsuitable for organised public recreation. In Clumber Park there could be facilities for bathing, boating, riding and rambling, lawn tennis and golf, with living accommodation and halls, and still preserve the grand landscape setting. Directed by the National Trust such an enterprise could be handled appropriately and, while serving two national needs, repay the cost of purchase.

FINDING THE WAY

IN some ways we seem as a nation to be hard to please. A little while ago there was a very general rejoicing over the restoration of our old friends the signposts which had so often beckoned us on our road to pleasant places. And now someone has written a letter to the newspapers complaining that there are too many of them. Some of them, he says, are put up by the local authority, some by the county council and some by a motoring association, and this redundancy is neither sensible nor aesthetic. He may be right, but most people will be so thankful to have their signposts back that they will not be disposed to cavil. Still if there are to be complaints it is perhaps permissible to grumble at the will-o'-the-wispishness, if it may so be termed, of some signposts. The name of Little Puddleton, let us say, appears for several miles and then disappears. The traveller, who has hitherto believed himself on the right road, comes to think that the jack-o'-lantern has misled him and may even turn back in despair. Yet if he had gone a little further he would have found Little Puddleton popping up again as mysteriously as it had vanished. Why this is so it is hard to say but it is a phenomenon familiar to the motorist. Once the name has appeared there let it stay, however redundant, until Puddleton has been safely reached or passed. Finding the way is a very good game but it need not be made too difficult.

LINCOLN PRESERVED

THE Electricity Commissioners' refusal to accept the objectionable elements in the Corporation of Lincoln's scheme for a generating station outside the city is a notable victory for good sense. The Corporation had over-ridden the view of their own Planning Committee in proposing the erection of cooling towers 230 ft. high which, the opposition pointed out, although some distance from the Cathedral, would oppose to the view of it rising from the plain two gigantic incongruous competitors. The Commissioners, while accepting the proposal in general, agreed with the objection and decreed wooden cooling towers instead, not more than 90 ft. high, and if possible yet further out of view. But why any cooling towers? Somebody has suggested in the Press in this connection that a domestic supply of hot water for the whole city could be generated as a by-product of the cooling process.

THE ORDEAL OF THE BATH

"GREAT men are seldom over scrupulous in the arrangement of their attire; the operations of shaving, dressing and coffee-imbibing were soon performed." Sir Bernard Montgomery is unquestionably a great man and he seems to have been living up to Mr. Pickwick's rule. Mr. Pickwick did not have a bath and the Field-Marshal has been telling us that the need for this luxury has been overrated; one bath a month was, he said, quite adequate in the desert. This will be cheering news for those who at least on some mornings in the week have owing to the fuel shortage to decide between a cold bath or none at all. There are enviable persons—they would be admirable if they were not so scornful of the less hardy—who enjoy a cold bath and leap out of it daily glowing with health, in a state of bright pink self-satisfaction. But there are others for whom there is nothing when the water is not hot and plenteous, but the laborious operation of washing by sections with the aid of a kettle or small can. Now, what is good enough for the Field-Marshal is good enough for them.

A

COUNTRYMAN'S NOTES . . .

By

Major C. S. JARVIS

A CORRESPONDENT has raised the question in *COUNTRY LIFE* as to whether the presence of silver fish in a house cannot always be traced to the occupants, or their predecessors, having at some time come from the East. I am certainly inclined to agree with the writer, for in this part of the world some houses are quite free from the insect and others are overrun, and in every case investigation goes to prove that the suggestion holds good. I must have brought at least one pair of selected breeding stock from Egypt, as on retirement I moved into a quite new house, and within two months was running a most productive stud farm of silver fish. I am not quite certain what constitutes their food-stuff in this country, as I do not see any visible signs of their work on water-colour paintings and photographs, which is their favourite provender in the East. Some of my own indifferent sketches have, I think, been improved by their work, as they have picked out some striking high lights on dull backgrounds, which I had overlooked when engaged with the brush. At the same time I do not think the white moustache and pointed Imperial they have grafted on to the photograph of the late King of Egypt really suits the royal face.

* * *

WHILE endeavouring to locate New Forest buzzards, which unlike most other birds seem to have taken an exception to aerial activity, for they have not been seen for two years, I visited one of the big enclosed woods, which about the time of the Battle of Britain was subjected to drastic timber felling. A mobile saw-mill was erected outside the plantation, and for a twelve-month or more a gang of lumbermen were at work removing and sawing up every sizeable tree.

Only three years have elapsed since the forestry men moved on to other plantations, but already the healing hand of weather, wind, rain and sun has obliterated the scarred timber-lug tracks through the woods, so that their outlines are barely discernible; the site of the saw-mill, except for a heap of sawdust, is hard to locate and, as for the enclosure which supplied so many thousand cubic feet of valuable timber, this looks infinitely more attractive in every way, now that it has been thinned-out, than it did in its prime. There are probably no trees left in the plantation which would catch the timber-man's eye as worth the felling, but to the ordinary wayfarer, who looks for beauty only in the New Forest, the wood, with its remaining young trees and a few old gnarled veterans of no value, looks far more beautiful with its glades of light than it did in the days before it was cut.

* * *

THE quest for the buzzards proved fruitless, for I did not see our pair wheeling over their usual ranging ground by Broomy Walk. This, however, is by no means proof that they have deserted the area, for I have a suspicion that the buzzard and his wife go off for long week-ends exploring other parts of the country. From time to time they are reported in some district where the bird is not a known resident, but as one hears no more of them one must presume that the pair seen were on a short holiday from some recognised buzzard haunt.

A week or so ago I had an account of a pair seen near Taunton, and about the same time I saw a couple wheeling over the high ground behind Chesil Beach. This stretch of



H. Smith

THE FIRST SHOEING

downland is very much the hunting preserve of the local Dorset peregrines, and I have never previously seen the buzzard in this corner of the county. There were two birds disputing the right of the buzzards over this piece of preserved air, and at first I thought they were the peregrines, but the field glasses proved that they were carrion crows, a variety of bird which can never mind its own business.

* * *

OOTHER unusual ornithological news concerns a corn-crake shot in a neighbouring water-meadow in October, and a flight of red-headed pochard seen on the Avon. The corn-crake is now unfortunately one of our rare birds, and in any case mid-October is very late for this Summer visitor, who sets forth on the migration southwards towards the middle of September. In the old days, when the corn-crake figured always in the bag during what might be called the short "walk-up" partridge season, he was seldom seen often after this method of shooting became impracticable through the wildness of the coveys. I have never read any satisfactory explanation of the corn-crake's disappearance from the southern parts of this country. It is generally attributed to the mechanical mower and reaper, but the corn-crake was a quite common visitant for at least 20 years after these machines were used generally on every hay meadow and corn field of any size, and it is only of recent years that the bird has become almost extinct.

* * *

WHATEVER articles of attire the Home Guardsman may, or may not, be allowed to retain on demobilisation, the out-door worker in the Force cannot say he has left the Service entirely unrewarded if he is permitted to retain his waterproof cape, known officially as Cape, Anti-Gas, 1.

This is a most efficient oilskin, long enough to carry off the rainwater to half-way down the leggings, and not to the knees as with most capes, and the only possible drawback to it as a civilian garment is its Punchinello bulge between the shoulders, designed to cover the infantryman's pack. Its colour is a clever studio effect in delicate shades of green and brown, and it has been worn with success when driving the cows into the sheds for milking, or the pastures for grazing; when hedging and ditching; when carting; as a camouflaged garment when duck- and pigeon-shooting—and of course on some Home Guard parades. Frequently I see a couple of capes coming in across the rain-swept fields in front of my window, and wonder if there is a military exercise in progress until I realise it is a farmer and his man, a private and a sergeant respectively, from a near-by farm. (Incidentally I often wonder if the sergeant, by virtue of his seniority, enjoys bossing it over his boss between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. on Sundays.)

* * *

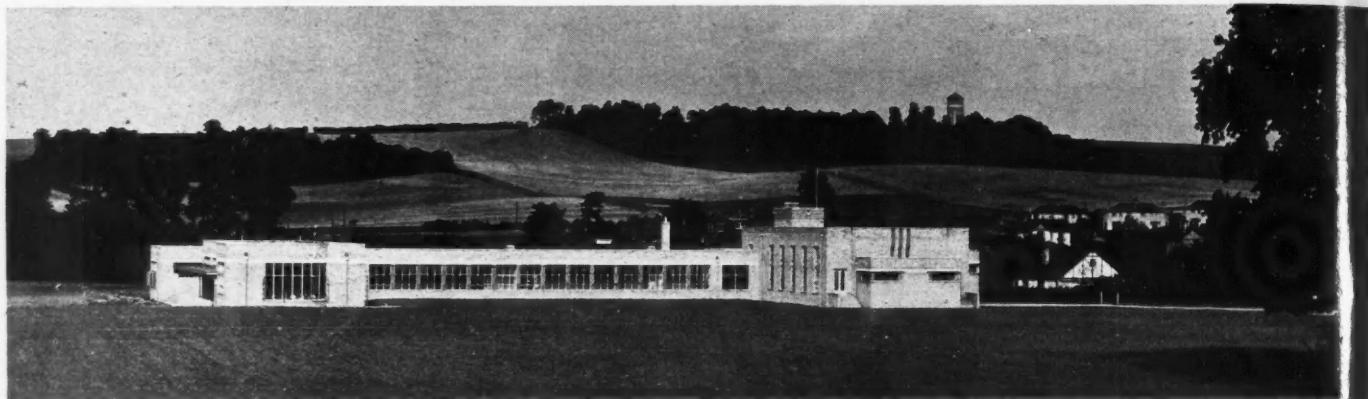
THE only occasion on which I wore my Home Guard cape for purely civilian work it met with such a storm of disapproval that I have not dared to repeat the experiment. My pullets have always been most observant and critical of my attire, and they resent anything unusual, such as a light Summer lounge suit which can be worn on possibly only one day in our Summer; so I suppose it was my fault as I should have given them some warning that I was wearing a military garment on an unsoldierly occasion. Clad in my camouflage cape I opened the door of their house one rainy morning, and each bird on emerging gave one shrill scream of horror, and next moment the air was filled with a strong-winged covey, which soared over the wire of the enclosure with an ease that a covey of partridges might have envied.

VILLAGE HALLS

By CLOUGH WILLIAMS-ELLIS

The value of Village Halls to rural communities has been strikingly proved during the war, and in the immediate future it is hoped that many more Halls will be provided, and the amenities of the existing ones may be increased. In many cases it is probable that war memorials will take this form.

An Exhibition organised by the National Council of Social Service is on view at Messrs. Heal's



VILLAGE COLLEGE, LINTON, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

In some cases the establishment of a Village College serving a group of villages will also meet their needs in regard to Halls

ONCE, long ago, it was the church. Often, particularly in Wales, it has been the chapel. Sometimes it is the pub, occasionally the village shop, the smithy or the boat-builder's shed down by the hard. What? The recognised and *de facto* centre and focus of a village social life, which indeed it must have to be spiritually a village at all and not merely an unorganic concentration of so many unrelated households.

Any effective social unit should be a "party," or rather a potential party, which implies both a meeting-place and a host or hostess. This obvious need, that has always been present, and that has been variously and generally inadequately met down the ages, is now at last accepted as a fundamental one that must be fully recognised and that deserves to be provided for generously as a quite definite social service, though not necessarily "nationally."

Indeed, perhaps the most important single condition for the successful working of any village hall (the end to which an adequate building is merely a means and no more) is that it should be subscribed and worked for, built, sustained and managed by the village

itself—and not be "donated" whether by local benefactor or state subvention.

Outside help to a village requiring a hall will always be welcome and generally essential if anything better than the barest minimum is to be achieved, and such valuable assistance has been well organised by the National Council of Social Service, whose grants in aid have already contributed to the worthy establishing of some 500 halls.

Most properly, the Council is concerned that any building work that it subsidises shall be not merely well planned for its intended purpose, but that it shall further have whatever graciousness a sympathetic handling of simple materials can give it, and the satisfying integrity that honest craftsmanship can confer. If both materials and craftsmanship can be characteristically and traditionally local, so much the better, for among the functions of a fully successful village hall should surely be the recording of whatever is of good repute in the achievements of the region and the setting of a decent standard in all things, building included.

All of which, of course, is no more than to say that to get a good hall you must employ a good architect, which indeed is what the

Council says in so many words, and advice that was implicit, too, throughout Sir Laurence Weaver's most helpful book *Village Clubs and Halls* (Country Life, 1920. Now out of print), where the work of some two or three dozen leading architects in this field was illustrated and described.

That field is certainly a big one with almost endless possibilities, and indefinite wide-flung boundaries within which may be included a range of provisions as variegated as the sum of the communal interests of the whole community, which is—or can be—actually immense, even in a little village.

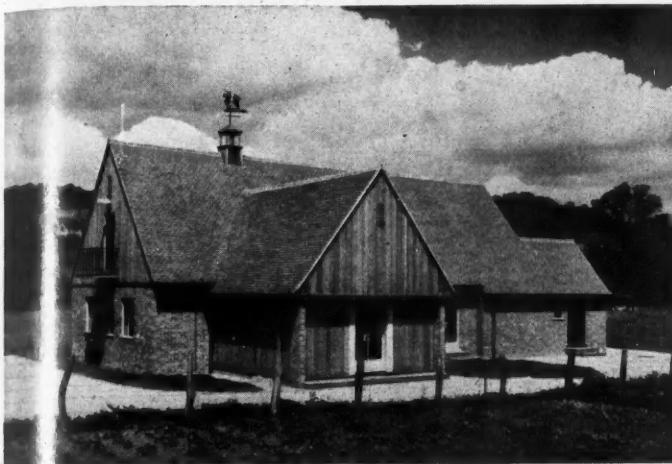
Many of us probably know halls that have at one time or another been the scene of almost every conceivable communal occasion save the actual ceremonies of christening, marrying and burying. Plays of all sorts and concerts—C.E.M.A., E.N.S.A. or local—M.O.I. and other film shows, scout, youth, Home Guard and British Legion parades and rallies, lectures, debates, dances, whist drives, physical training and domestic science classes, Y.M.C.A., Women's Institute activities, and just plain sociable get-together parties.

It is for all such manifold uses that the



WITLEY, SURREY. CHICHESTER MEMORIAL HALL

Cost £5,000 in 1936. Architects, Imrie and Angel. The design includes a cricket veranda, stage, dressing-rooms and kitchen



FA NINGHAM, KENT. A smaller hall; brick and cedar boarding. Architect, Miss Albery. (Right) MISERDEN, GLOUCESTERSHIRE. A hall in the Cotswold manner, incorporating a squash racquets court. Architect, A. Linton Iredale

hall will be needed and for which it must be ready adaptable (and as fully as possible) with the minimum of fuss and trouble. Being essentially an all-purpose building, it can obviously not be too specialised in any one direction, but it can be given certain basic qualities that will enable it to fulfil most of its various roles with reasonable credit.

The other evening I attended what I believe was a really first-rate talk on the ballet, illustrated on the stage by a ballerina who, I understand, is as accomplished as she is lovely.

But the acoustics of this unusually ambitious and expensive rural hall were such as to make the lecture quite inaudible beyond the first few rows, while I could see no more than the back-cloth shadow of the dance and now and again a bobbing head until, driven desperate, I left my allotted seat and stood on a table right at the back with other frustrated balleromaniacs.

Well, all that was simply the architect's fault for making the stage too low and the ceiling so high, which last maybe was well enough for the organ but quite hopeless for the human voice.

Then, again, the oak block floor would be fine for most purposes, but unresponsive and tiring for dancing—an adjustable floor, sprung or rigid at the turn of a handle, being of course the ideal for an all-purpose hall where things are being done on that sort of scale.

There were no proper dressing-rooms for players, no adequate cloakrooms for audience, and an altogether too small and obscurely tucked-away kitchen by no means compensated for by water-closets embarrassingly accessible and with alarmingly noisy mechanism.

In short, this particular hall, with so many elementary and easily avoidable shortcomings is definitely a failure for all its spacious elegance, though it is only fair to say that many more things have been asked of his building than the

architect could have reasonably foreseen when he designed it some time before the last war.

Yet even so, had he applied his imagination more to function and not concentrated so exclusively (as it would seem) on merely designing something "handsome," we on that precarious table-top would have thought of him less bitterly.

Of course we want gracious, creditable buildings and will only make do with anything less when unhappily we must—but do let us be quite clear that, unless the basic detailed planning and lay-out of a village hall and its equipment are right, it will never function as efficiently and satisfactorily as it ought to do, and will inevitably, to that extent, fail of its purpose—generous proportions and fine workmanship notwithstanding.

Which, of course, suggests that the local building committee, intent to serve its locality, must first correctly gauge its actual needs by a careful area survey and then, before it is even committed to any definite site, lay the whole complex problem squarely before the architect chosen as most likely to provide an acceptable solution. If he has done similar jobs before, well and good; it may make things all the easier both for himself and perhaps for the committee too, but, as I have never known a case where plans prepared to meet one set of circumstances could ever be adapted perfectly to suit another, the advantage of mature experience over youthful ingenuity may amount to a certain wariness—no more—through familiarity with the ropes, the snags to this or that contrivance, the working of this or the other under the test of prolonged use. The experienced, too, may perhaps better guess the special but often unspecified requirements of all the various groups, bodies and societies whose several needs must somehow be reconciled as sharers of a single building; yet the alert invention called for by such a

synthesis or symbiosis is a characteristic of the zealous young rather than of their elders. In short, having in my own youth built a number of halls with intense interest and pleasure and without disaster, I now unselfishly declare that such jobs are well suited to a fresh intelligence willing to take the immense pains that a successful outcome must demand and that an established architect preoccupied with large constructions may be quite unable to take, however cordial his goodwill.

But, as all designs for buildings for which a grant is sought through the National Council of Social Service are anyway reviewed and helpfully commented on by its own panel of experts, a local committee is to that extent insured against its own possible initial mistakes in selecting an inappropriate architect, for if the plans submitted seem to indicate that he is technically or artistically inadequate to the occasion, that view, if not frankly stated, may perhaps be inferred from the rejection of the application.

Though efficiency, fitness for purpose, and a sensitive rural seemliness are desiderata that largely determine the acceptability or otherwise of building plans and estimates, maintenance costs, prospective income, range of amenities and services offered, and the trust deed defining responsibilities and establishing the management, are all matters that affect the Council's decisions no less than the actual building proposals, upon all of which it is ready and able to give helpful advice.

Actually the booklet published by the Council (a new and revised version of which is now awaiting issue) pretty thoroughly covers the whole ground so far as general advice and warnings are concerned and lays down the principles of intelligent planning and successful operation. It accepts the implications of the Scott Report, considers the ratio between



TTENDON, BERKSHIRE. Faced with wavy-edged elm boarding. Erected on behalf of the National Council of Social Service. (Right) UGLEY, ESSEX. A small village hall built of local materials



population and accommodation needed in communities ranging from 250 up to 4,000, discusses the new link-up envisaged between the village hall (vested preferably with the Official Trustee for Charity Lands or the Parish Council) and such local authorities as those for Education, Health, Library Services and General Administration.

Such are now empowered to become subscribing partners in any approved scheme for a hall that will subserve their sectional interests without prejudice to the place as a general community centre, the point being made indeed that, far from reducing its social usefulness, the more communal interests can be gathered together under one roof (if necessarily at different times) the more will the place become the real and living focus for the whole life of the neighbourhood, political, cultural and social.

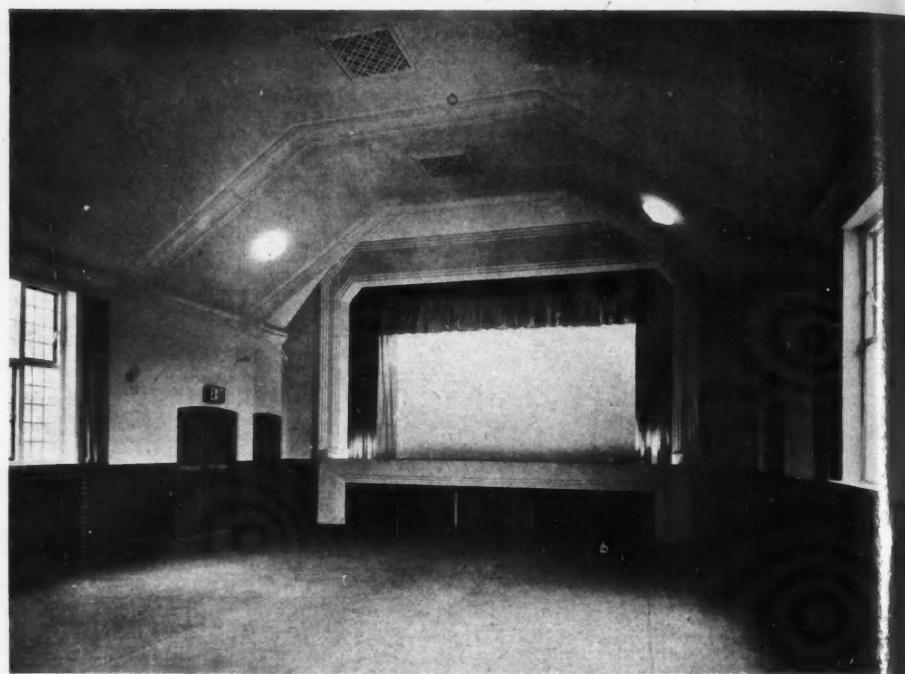
It is this efficient concentration of a multiplicity of interests and activities at one focal point, in a single multilateral building serving them all, that has been largely responsible for the wide interest now taken in the Cambridgeshire Village Colleges, which Mr. Henry Morris has succeeded in enlivening with pretty well all the civilised and civilising communal activities of their constituent areas, educational as well as recreational for both old and young, with the operations of local government sometimes added on top of it all.

Where village colleges or their like are in fact already happily established, there seems to be no obvious limit to what might be beneficially grafted on to so vigorous and versatile a parent stem, where each branch stimulates the other and contributes something towards what, with such support, can afford an *ensemble* of spacious dignity quite unattainable in isolation by any one constituent.

Which is merely to suggest that such a hook-up may, under favouring circumstances, be sometimes worth considering as against a separate and independent enterprise in a special building, even a new school being a likely partner. It is obviously easier to say what is generally desirable in a village hall than to determine the just priorities as between provisions which, all useful, are of different relative importance to the particular community, are incompatible, or are too costly to be considered.

Cost, indeed, despite the various grants in aid likely to be available (just what these may be cannot be known until after the war) and the contributions that certain bodies are now officially authorised to make in return for accommodation, will as ever remain the limiting factor.

At the present time, were one able to build at all, costs would be found to be somewhere around double those ruling just



WITLEY, SURREY. Interior, showing stage with doors beneath it into store for scenery and chairs



LAKE, WILTSHIRE. A barn converted to a hall

before the war, perhaps half the increase being directly attributable to immediate war restrictions and purely temporary deficiencies, that should disappear with the emergency, the rest representing a permanent increase the further trend of which can no more than be guessed at and which will probably be paralleled pretty generally and constitute another step up in the accepted cost of living.

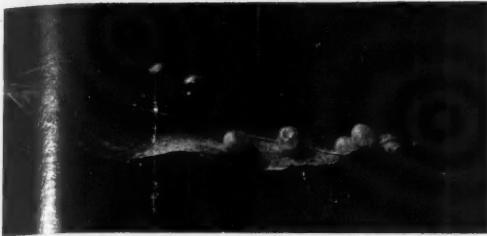
In any case, it will be more than ever necessary to make all available funds work overtime and to ensure that, whatever materials and skill are to be had, they yield the highest possible results in space and grace.

Here indeed will be a challenge to the ingenuity of every architect, required to devise something finely efficient from minimal resources.

As we have won the war by steadily refusing to recognise the impossible, I cannot see our being defeated by merely technical difficulties and prevented from establishing such essential strong-points of civilised peace as we already know our village halls can be.



(Left) WOOD GREEN, HAMPSHIRE. An interior decorated with wall paintings of local scenes by R. W. Baker and E. R. Payne



(Left) 1.—EGGS OF
THE ELEPHANT
HAWK MOTH

ELEPHANT HAWK MOTHS IN LONDON

By S. BEAUFOY

No one who has crossed the blitzed sites of London, where the rubble has been cleared away, leaving only concrete foundations and bare ground, can have failed to notice the profusion of wild flowers that has sprung up there. The natural history of London has been altered considerably. Wild flowers, birds, butterflies and moths are now to be seen in the heart of the Metropolis, where before they seldom, if ever, came. One of the commonest plants now to be seen is the rose bay willow herb, with its tall pink spikes in Summer, and its feathery seed pods in Autumn. Incidentally, this plant has increased enormously all over the country during the last few decades.

The appearance of the rose bay willow herb in London has been accompanied by a noticeable increase in the numbers of the elephant hawk moth (*Deilephila elpenor*), whose larva feeds upon its leaves, and this year, in particular, the larvæ have been exceedingly plentiful. Although it is quite common in the country as a whole, it is doubtful whether it was often found in London before the blitz indirectly caused its food plant to establish itself there.

In June, the female lays its eggs (Fig. 1) on the leaves of the willow herb, and also, in the country, on bedstraw. The eggs are pale green and smooth, very similar to most of the hawk moth family.

The larva, when first hatched, is very pale green, almost white, and has a long tail. Immediately on hatching, this tail is the same colour as the rest of the body, but gradually it becomes darker and darker, till, after an hour or two, it is jet black. The first meal of the larva is its eggshell, after which it eats the leaves of its food plant.

As the larvæ grow, it will be noticed that there are two distinct forms, identical in marking, but one of them, the more usual, is brown in colour and the other green. It might be thought that the two forms arise from the larvæ living upon different food-plants, some on willow herb and some on bedstraw, say; but this is not so, for the two forms will occur when a number of larvæ are reared in captivity, being exclusively fed on one food plant.

The fully-grown larva (Fig. 5) is nearly three inches long and is a remarkable-looking creature with circular marks, having the appearance of eyes, on the sides of the body near the head. When at rest, the head is retracted, causing the segments immediately behind it to swell. This, together with the prominent "eyes," gives the larva a frightening appearance. When it is feeding, however, the head is extended some considerable distance, as if at the end of a trunk, and it is this characteristic that gives rise to the name, elephant hawk moth. The larva is not often in evidence, as during the day it rests low down on the food plant, coming out to eat at night.

When ready to pupate, this larva does not enter the ground as do many of the other hawk moth larvæ, but it spins a loose cocoon among the grasses and herbage at the foot of the food plant, drawing pieces of grass around itself so that it is effectively hidden.

The pupal stage lasts till the following Spring, when the moths emerge. They are extremely beautiful, especially when first emerged and before any of the scales are worn off. The fore wings are mainly pink and olive, the rear wings pink and black, and the body mostly pink. During day-time the moths prefer to rest on the sides of trees and on fences, so are seldom seen flying, but at sunset one may catch sight of them journeying to flowers in company with many other moths.



2.—YOUNG LARVA



3.—HALF-GROWN LARVA. Green form



4.—PUPA IN OPENED COCOON



5.—FULLY GROWN LARVA. Brown form. (Middle) 6.—MOTH. UPPER SIDE. (Right) 7.—MOTH. UNDER SIDE

ENEMIES OF THE KENYA FARMER

By LIEUT.-COLONEL C. H. STOCKLEY



1.—A PEST TO THE WHEAT FARMER: A HERD OF YOUNG OSTRICHES

IN public misconception Kenya is supposed to be the land of the idle and extravagant rich. That it has fed some five times its normal European population since the beginning of the war, and that its inhabitants are mainly hard-working farmers who have supplied more than their normal quota to the fighting forces, while their womenfolk have gallantly carried on, with several children in many cases, are facts known only to people especially interested in the Kenya settler.

That farmers in England have many difficulties, and some natural enemies, is a truism, but they are mainly those of weather and disease, while many birds are definite helpers against insect foes, and large wild animals are non-existent. In Kenya we have now had four years' successive failure of the rains, and are at present struggling with that awful plague, locusts. There are, as I write, more than 5,000 pioneers, 500 lorries and a flight of aeroplanes fighting locusts in Northern Kenya, and it is still very doubtful whether the fight has been won. One thing is, however, certain—no crops would have been reaped in Kenya during the past year if it had not been for this unceasing struggle.

Last year two adjacent drought-stricken farms in this district lost over 6,000 sheep between them, and the gazelle and antelope in that area became so weak from starvation that they could be run down and caught by a man on foot.

These are, of course, abnormal years which we all hope and expect are about to pass and be tided over, but the game are always with us.

To feed Italian prisoners of war great numbers of zebra and large antelope have been shot. These are eaters of grass urgently needed for stock and the killing has been a decided economic benefit in settled areas; but the lion, rhino, buffalo and elephant, being forest-dwellers, are not nearly so easy to deal with, and much more destructive.

Only a couple of months ago a lioness teaching her three cubs to kill entered them to a friend's cattle, the bag being two hundred pounds-worth of cows in one night. On an



2.—BUFFALO WHICH HAD BROKEN INTO FARMS AT NIGHT RETURN TO THICK COVER AT SUNRISE

adjacent farm a rhino killed a cow shortly afterwards, a form of amusement to which rhino are given at times. Recently a herd of over 50 elephants has twice tried to break into a valuable orange grove under my charge, the marauders being turned back with great difficulty by the shouts and beating of petrol tins by the workers.

On my own place, and both adjoining farms, rhino and buffalo are often a nuisance, chasing boys and threatening cars at night. One particularly obnoxious bull buffalo had the impertinence to chase a boy right into the house round which he was cutting grass, and this in the middle of the day. The house is normally empty, but I often use it for a night or two when visiting the farm. Some months ago another solitary bull came down to a herdboy's hut in daytime while he was tending his small vegetable plot, and injured him so badly that

he was left for dead with an enormous hole through a thigh and an arm permanently useless.

Such incidents invariably occur with buffalo on farms close to the main forest or on the edge of unsettled areas, but rhino appear in most unexpected places, wherever there is sufficient cover for them, and their occurrence does not encourage one's African labour to carry on with the job in hand; yet their complacency under such circumstances is often marvellous.

Buffalo are particularly difficult to deal with, as they come down at night, break into shambas, eat their fill and retire before dawn to thick cover (Fig. 2), often several miles away, after watering at the nearest stream. Uprooting coffee bushes is a favourite sport on the return journey. Following them up is a long and tedious business, often ending in a vagrant slant of wind causing their departure in a series of diminuendo crashes and the hunter wending his

way home cursing his luck and the 'buffalo, such curses being even more vigorous as he returns through broken fences and flattened crops which show where the herd fed that night.

Sometimes buffalo will live at peace quite close to a farm without doing damage, and for several years, but it nearly always ends in an old solitary bull, turned out of the herd and too accustomed to man to have the usual respect for him, chasing boys, breaking into and feeding on little maize shambas, and generally becoming such a nuisance that he must be shot or the labour departs to the Native Reserve.

It would be thought that such a beast would be easily brought to book, but that is not so. He abates none of his natural cunning, and one I knew of terrorised a great part of a farm belonging to friends for two years, denying valuable grazing to cattle, killing one herd-boy and severely injuring another. His base of operations was a large patch of dense thornbush, impenetrable to a clothes-wearing European, on the edge of which he would wait for farm boys passing along the adjacent road at dusk, or would sally forth and chase cattle.



3.—A BULL ELEPHANT. A HERD OF OVER 50 ELEPHANTS TWICE TRIED TO BREAK INTO AN ORANGE GROVE



4.—REEDBUCK LIE DOWN IN WHEAT AND FLATTEN MORE THAN THEY EAT

He knew too well that a man with a rifle was dangerous, and took no unnecessary risks, his instinct in such matters being infallible. The owner eventually bagged him by making a big circuit above the road, then coming back to it at dusk.

Another bull used to visit a certain farm every year for a couple of months, to indulge in the sport of man-hunting. A hunter got him by going out the day after he arrived and sitting at daybreak above the forest road where the bull lay in wait.

When I built my house an old buffalo bull spent every night about a furlong away in the forest, but did no harm, so I did not bother about him. He occupied this stretch for about four years. Then he began to chase boys on the road and break into maize *shambas* every night. My boys at last refused to go for my mail, and something had to be done.

I had 11 tries for him, getting up in the dark and down at the maize as soon as it was light enough to see to shoot; but every time he got back to his home in the thick stuff before I could catch up on his tracks. Then I tried cutting him off, left the house at dawn, up on to the plateau behind and saw him with his latest lady-love on the far side of the open grass and within a hundred yards of cover. He delayed going in and it was fatal. Within 20 minutes of my leaving the house he was dead, a .450 bullet behind each shoulder.

Rhino (Fig. 7) are a greater nuisance, more dangerous to man, and persistent destroyers of fencing, just shoving a great nose and front horn under the lowest wire then carrying on with a heave. But they do not destroy crops to the same extent; Forest Department plantations are their usual haunts of crime. There they bark and break down young trees until the forest officer's yell for help stir the Game Department to send up a professional hunter. He kills off

some 20 or 30 of the rhino in that district, is well paid for doing so and returns to Nairobi well satisfied. Two or three years later the same programme is gone through, and one wonders why the rhino is retained as "royal game" for which a £10 licence has to be paid, instead of one being added free to the already far too expensive big-game licence.

The last professional hunter sent up here, only three months ago, killed more than 20 rhino within five miles of my house and there are still too many in the forest around.

Rhino are curiously indifferent to the presence of humans at times, and a very fine bull, with a 40½-in. front horn, was shot within 100 yds. of men working in the forest.

Of the antelope, waterbuck (Fig. 5) are probably the worst offenders, breaking into plantations and vegetable gardens, where their feet cut up more than they eat. Oryx (Fig. 6) are great destroyers of grazing, arriving suddenly in large numbers on new grass from a great distance, and are usually very wary. Thomson's gazelle have also been a plague in recent years, the dearth of cartridges and their small size being the principal factors which have caused them to multiply until I have seen several hundred in one small valley. They eat the grass as close as sheep and zebra do. Incidentally, I have never seen a thin zebra: they eat the grass right down to the roots and keep their condition when other animals starve.

Bushpig are bad enemies of maize fields, breaking down and chewing the cobs, leaving them half or quarter eaten, then retiring to thick cover for the day. Warthog are accounted bad enemies of the stock farmer, as they are accused of carrying East Coast fever and rinderpest, but they cannot be held responsible for the terrible outbreak of foot-and-mouth which is, as I write, sweeping Kenya. This is causing an unusually high death rate owing to



5.—THE WORST OF THE ANTELOPE—THE WATERBUCK AT A DRINKING PLACE NEAR SUNDOWN

the poor grazing due to drought, and consequently enfeebled animals.

The wheat farmer has his own pests, with ostriches (Fig. 1) high on the list. Recently a farmer said to me that he was glad he had given up wheat and taken to stock if only because the ostriches were no longer a problem to him. A neighbour of his once told me that he shot an ostrich within 25 minutes of its entering his wheat and taking 17 lb. of young plants from its crop. I have seen more than 40 in one herd and counted more than 250 from my car at one halt. Several hens will lay in one nest. Only a dozen to 15 of the 40 or so eggs usually hatch, so that the herds are of several broods of immature birds with the various parents leading or scouting on the flanks.

Reedbuck (Fig. 4) are also a pest in the wheat, whole parties of them lying down in it as soon as it will hide them and flattening more than they eat. When cutting, a farmer will often leave a patch, as with rabbits in England, and shoot the bolting antelope as the crop steadily narrows.

It all sounds rather daunting, but there are many farms which hardly ever see a wild animal big enough to do damage, though the locusts and birds are a terror. But what one loses on the swings comes back on the roundabouts; labour and living expenses are cheap in Kenya and, above all, the climate is very healthy.

Yet with cars, lorries and farm machinery ever breaking down, and spares very scarce; drought, bad roads or no roads; and the locust menace ever looming far or near, the Kenya farmer's lot at present is not a happy one. But he carries on, continues to produce in what seems to me miraculous fashion, grousing just like a farmer at home and will continue to do these things, war or no war, locusts or no locusts, until the cows come home.



6.—ORYX ARE GREAT DESTROYERS OF GRAZING, ARRIVING SUDDENLY IN LARGE NUMBERS ON NEW GRASS.
(Right) 7.—A BULL RHINO WHICH BROKE DOWN YOUNG TREES





1.—THE EAST FRONT AND ENTRANCE

BOURNE PARK, KENT—I THE HOME OF SIR JOHN PRESTIGE

Re-built in 1701 by Dame Elizabeth Aucher during the minority of her son Sir Hewitt Aucher. The estate has since changed hands only twice: in 1844 to Matthew Bell and to the present owner in 1927. Its noble landscape setting is due to W. A. Nesfield, with the co-operation of Mr. Bell, just 100 years ago

By CHRISTOPHER HUSSEY

BISHOPSBOURNE lies eastward from Canterbury 3½ miles along the Dover Road. It is described in *Domesday* as "Bournes," which is bourne or stream, and takes its name from the Little Stour which rises in the Park and flows

through Bridge and Patrixbourne. In the bird's-eye view to be had from the hillside, the gentlemanly front of the mansion is seen in relation to the downland setting. Over its roof, now tiled, a broad avenue of elms until recently clothed the slope beyond. These

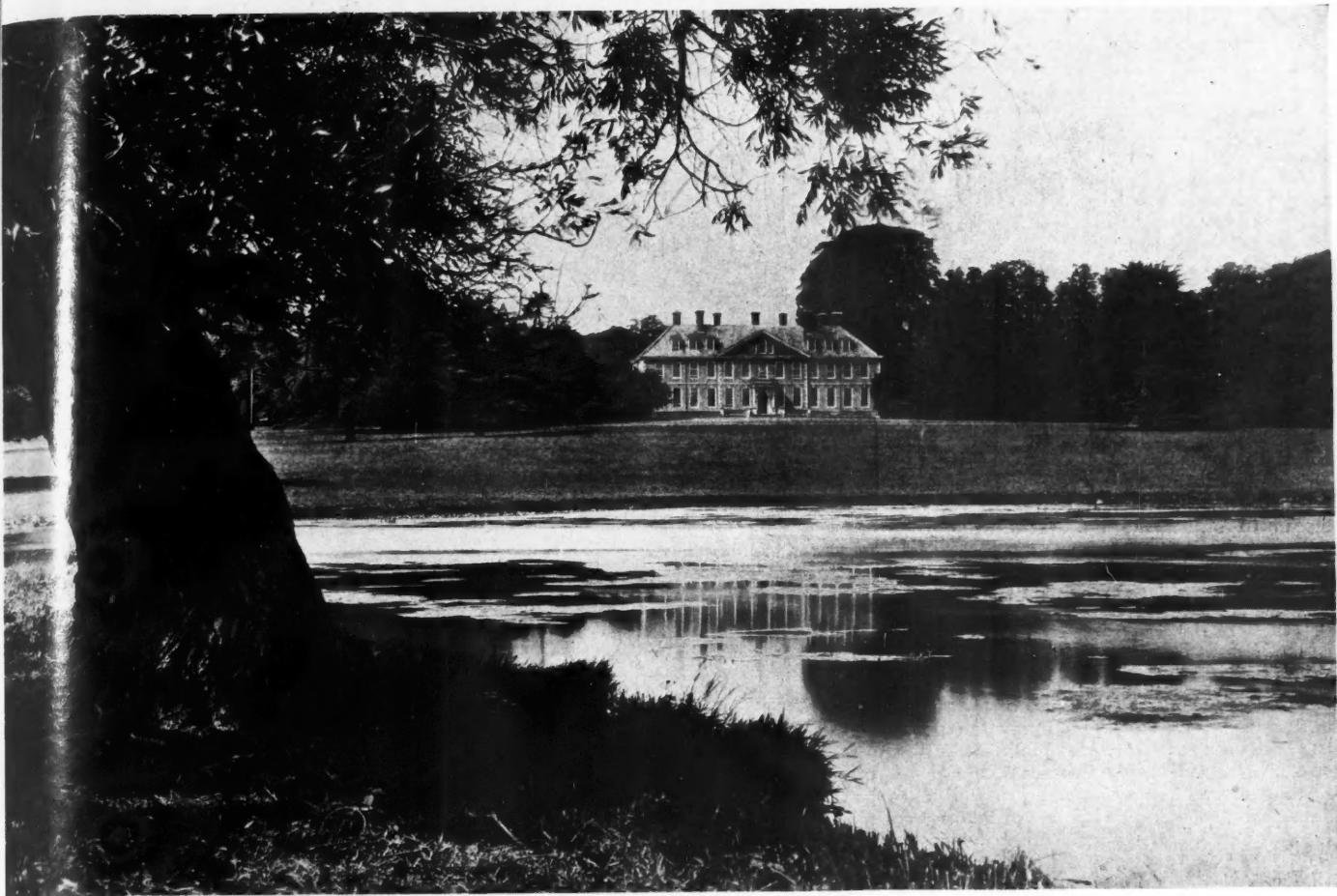
have gone to feed the war effort, but the beauty of the prospect is fortunately not lost. It is an ideal picture of an English home, the house with the common-sense dignity of Wren's epoch, the landscape architecture a skilful blend of the contemporary formal and the later picturesque. In its present form the setting is a tribute to the talents of William Andrews Nesfield (1793–1881), the Peninsular War ex-officer who, retiring young, devoted himself to landscape, first as a water-colourist and then as a gardener in the tradition of Brown and Repton. Mr. Matthew Bell commenced his alterations in 1848 and kept a complete manuscript record of all his changes, which clearly indicates the constant co-operation between the professional adviser and the owner. Nesfield's report on what he proposed doing opens with a grandiloquent assertion quite in the style affected by Repton when impressing a noble owner with what Brown used to call the "capabilities" of his estate. "The propositions of a Landscape Improver," wrote Nesfield, "should be based on the same principles as those of a landscape painter, and it cannot be expected that his *rationale* could either be felt or artistically comprehended by a mere mechanical operator whose mind does not extend beyond the addition of soil or (of making) a railway embankment."

That last phrase, though somewhat obscure in the MS., is significant: the great century of English landscape art was drawing to a close. In that 100 years the demands of art and use had become so closely identified, in connection with the land, as to be indistinguishable, with the result that the English countryside was



(Left) 2.—AN IDEAL PICTURE OF AN ENGLISH HOME. This view from the east, and Fig. 3, show the landscape setting and the house before the recent alterations seen in Figs. 1 and 4

Figs. 1 and 4



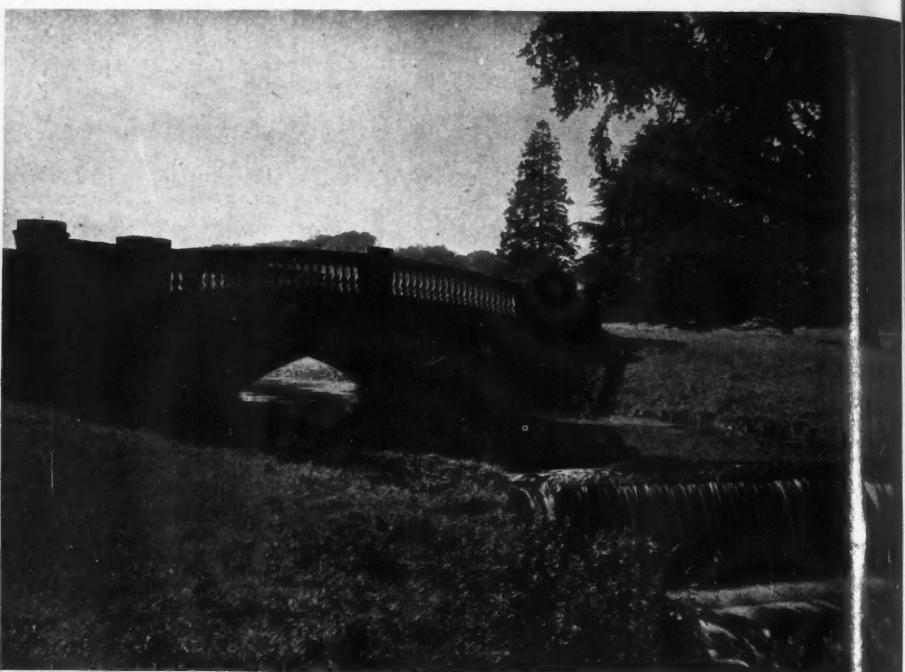
3.—THE EAST FRONT ACROSS THE LAKE. THE PICTURE FORMED BY W. A. NESFIELD IN 1848



4.—THE GARDEN FRONT. The row of limes on the left is part of the original formal lay-out

brought into being. It was an unique creation, unparalleled anywhere in the world. But by the '40s, as Nesfield recognised, progressively industrialism, and most obviously the building of the railways, had opposed to agricultural aesthetics another standard for the usage of land, that of economic utility, from which the aesthetics of landscape were conspicuously excluded. And so it has continued to the present day, till it is now forgotten that time was, not long ago, when the countryside was consciously made as a useful work of art.

Bourne Park had originally been laid out about 1700 on rigid, if effective, geometrical lines, with an avenue leading up to each front. Two of these survived until recently: the broad one up the slope at the back, and the lime avenue from the south front to Bishopsbourne Church (Fig. 6). Originally another avenue ran on the axis of the front door. Nesfield dammed up the stream to form a lake, the base of which the approach road crosses by a pretty classical bridge (Fig. 5). The avenues flanking the house were softened by the planting, on either side of the front, of screens of mixed hardwoods and evergreens, with some new stately cedars as outriders on the gentle slope of sward as it rises from the lake. The effect, though essentially pictorial and of the nineteenth century, beautifully emphasises, by contrast, the architectural qualities of the house. As being more imaginative, if less stately, more visually if less intellectually impressive, this transformation to landscape from geometry reflected the changed bias of the age and created something in harmony with English ideals of freedom in place of something derived ultimately from centralised Continental autocracies. The sense of freedom and good neighbourliness that permeates the English countryside is in great measure due to these ideals having been the social and aesthetic aims in the period of its



5.—NESFIELD'S BRIDGE ON THE APPROACH CROSSING THE OUTFALL OF THE LAKE

creation. Nesfield was responsible for the geometrical terrace on the south side (Fig. 7) and his water-colour drawing still exists. In the view from the house, Barham Down was opened up by felling a plantation that blocked it. And a hop garden, reputed to be the oldest in East Kent and famous for its yields, still adjoins the Park.

I have dwelt thus far on the setting of Bourne because this aspect of country houses, which so largely conditions our view of them, is too often taken for granted while

the commentator discourses on their architecture and history. Distinguished as the building is, nothing is known of its designer, and the Aucher family, apart from Sir Anthony who acquired the manor of Bishopsbourne, was respectfully undistinguished.

Though they laid claim to descent from one Ealcher or Aucher, Earl of Kent in 853 A.D., their documentary existence begins in the thirteenth century and shows them since 1500 as seated at Otterden, near Lenham. Sir Anthony Aucher, *temp. Henry VIII*, attended the Court as any man must who was ambitious to make his way in the world. He held the office of Master of the Jewels, was actively engaged in coast defence measures and was Surveyor of Victuals at Boulogne; indeed was killed when the French finally took Calais in 1558. Meanwhile, he was in a position to pick up bargains in

ecclesiastical property, most of which he sold at a profit. Among those that came his way was the See of Canterbury's manor of Bishopsbourne, one of those that, like Knole, Archbishop Cranmer found it expedient to dispose of to the King. Several letters of Aucher's addressed from Bourne after 1545 show that he took up residence immediately, so there must have been a house already there. This was, no doubt, the house on a sub-manor, within the manor, which records show to have been held for centuries by a layman. Some peculiarities in the plan and shape of the present house suggest that an older one may be incorporated in it.

The succeeding Auchers of Otterden and Bourne served as High Sheriffs, declared themselves for Charles I, and, in another Sir Anthony, received a baronetcy at the Restoration. He, when 67, married, as his second wife, Elizabeth, daughter of Robert Hewett of St. Martin's in the Fields, she being 29 at the time. When he died in 1692 his seven sons by his first wife had pre-deceased him, so that he was succeeded by the elder of his two sons by Mistress Elizabeth, a boy aged seven but buried in Bishopsbourne Church three years later. So title and estate passed to his little brother Hewitt Aucher. For him it was that his widowed mother built the new house in 1701.

The date is pin-pointed by a curious discovery. When the house was bought by Mr. Matthew Bell, the structure was in very indifferent repair, and the younger John Shaw was employed in 1848 as architect for its reconditioning. Among the repairs involved was the re-setting of the stone string-course over the ground-floor windows. To quote Mr. Bell's words:

In doing this, on the back of one of the stones taken out was found part of a coat of arms carved in bold relief. Fortunately we happened to be on the spot at the time and told the masons to preserve any others which might be found with similar carving. Three others were discovered, the four making a complete shield.

The coat was identified with that of Poyings, owners of the great castle of Westenhanger for two generations. Sir Edward Poyings had acquired it in Henry VIII's reign and



6.—THE LIME AVENUE, FROM THE SOUTH END OF THE HOUSE TO BISHOPSBOURNE CHURCH

did much building there. In 1701 it is recorded to have been pulled down and the materials sold for £1,000. Many other pieces of sculptured stone were found at Bourne, so it is evident that Lady Aucher built this house for her son at that time and drew on the sale of the Westenhanger ruins for its stonework.

The house is a parallelogram with similar fronts 116 ft. 5 ins. long, its depth 47 ft. 4 ins.—curious dimensions, suggesting the incorporation of an older building. The fronts have no breaks other than the slight projection of the unusually wide pediment. The hipped roof which had been partly slated is now of old tiles moved from the internal valleys. The chimneys have the unselfconscious boldness of Wren's, unlike those of the succeeding Palladian school which had to pretend they were not there. In general character the building resembles Barham Court near by, which has a similar five-windowed pediment. It is akin to many smaller houses that prosperous squires and yeomen of East Kent were then building, and was probably raised by a local master mason, who must have been no mean architect.

John Shaw, architect of the 1848 repairs, made a design for considerably embellishing the building in the style of the period, which Mr. Bell luckily did not adopt. Yet Shaw was by no means unappreciative of the building's excellence, for the Bourne Papers describe his delight at finding, in some blank windows, "the original William and Mary sashes having 28 small panes of glass in each, with very thick bars," which he retained in place at the northwest end of the house.

Such appreciation was most unusual when the vogue for plate glass was at its height. In all the other windows the sashes of intermediate date, three panes wide, and two or three high, were retained. At the same time the accommodation was enlarged by converting the basement into office quarters, to light which an area with a brick parapet was formed on the entrance front, where there had been only cellar windows. The ground level of the forecourt was also raised, to shorten the exposed ascent by seven steps to the original front door. Thus the original height of the façade was considerably reduced, with a consequent emphasis of its length.

Sir John Prestige with the assistance of Mr. Walter Godfrey has replaced the Victorian portal with one which was formerly the main entrance of the old Port of London Building and is of the same date as the erection of the house. He has re-windowed it with sashes exactly copying those found by Shaw: each sash is four panes wide and three high, except in the low-silled windows of the south end (Fig. 7), which are four panes high in the lower halves. The effect is successfully to enrich the texture of the design and to increase its scale. The old crown glass which has been used produces a delightful shimmer as the sun sets and shadows come to life. He has also put back the domestic arrangements of the interior, expanded in the Victorian age, closely following their original compactness, and perfectly suiting modern requirements.

One of the indications that the present house incorporates a Tudor or Jacobean one is that the front door does not open into the middle of the hall (Fig. 8), as was the rule in the classic Wren epoch, but at the side of one end according to the older custom, which suggests that it preserves the arrangement of a previous building. There too is seen a fireplace of the Bethesden marble much used in early 17th-century Kentish houses, patterned in the customary technique of chipping away the background and polishing the raised surface that stands out black against the grey recesses (Fig. 9).

The fireplace contains the magnificent cast iron figures of "wild men" probably introduced by Sir Anthony Aucher. They are French, similar to a pair at the Château de Langeais which are known to be northern French work of about 1535 when Sir Anthony was in Calais, and have shields of arms at present unidentified. In the oval shield of the chimneypiece is an heraldic bird. The Aucher crest was a bull's head, but this appears to be the "falcon on a lure" that was the crest of a Hewitt who was a rich merchant in Elizabethan times. The chimneypiece is evidently early seventeenth century, but how it got there is a mystery, beyond that Lady Aucher may be supposed to have introduced it from her former home. The decorative work of her own epoch applied to the principal rooms will be illustrated next week.

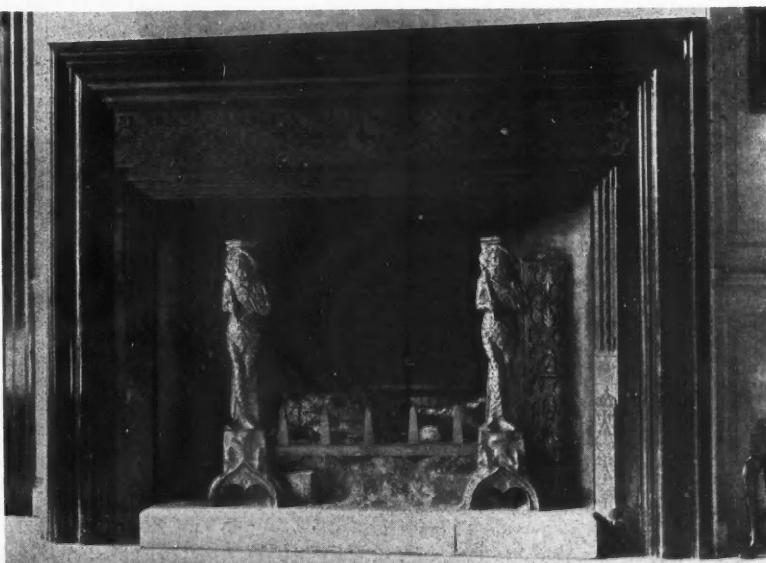
(To be concluded)



7.—THE SOUTH END, WITH NESFIELD'S FORMAL GARDEN



8.—THE ENTRANCE HALL



9.—THE HALL FIREPLACE OF BETHESDEN MARBLE. EARLY SEVENTEENTH CENTURY



DYEING THE FLEECE

Sometimes this is done before carding

(Right) TAKING THE DYED WOOL OUT OF THE POT
This wool has been dyed after carding

THE OLD CRAFT OF TWEED-MAKING

By AUDREY GORDON



HOT sun and the smell of heather in full bloom; the Twelfth, with the bag of grouse laid out in their fat sleek beauty; salmon and trout-fishing in Scottish rivers and lochs; chilly days of Autumn mist and rain; lying behind a boulder, waiting for a "royal" to get up; or just pleasant days of golf—it is such memories that one associates with tweed. Since the war started holidays have been fewer and houses colder, and clothes that will last and wear well are wanted by all. Genuine all-wool tweeds of the best types have proved their reliability and durability and comfort for a people at war as well as for a sporting people, and their popularity has increased.

The origin of the name tweed is curious. It was due to a misprint made by a clerk in 1826. He intended to write the word "tweel" on an invoice and wrote tweed instead. Tweel is the Scottish equivalent of the English twill, and means a simple weave in which the longitudinal threads, called the warp, are woven over and under the transverse threads, known as the weft. The name tweed soon became universal, and is now applied to

woollen material woven in this way. Most tweeds have some territorial distinction, such as Scottish, Irish, Harris, Otterburn, or West of England, and often the trade mark indicates the place of origin.

Unfortunately trade marks can be faked or evaded, and the public do not always take enough notice of them. I have heard of "Harris" tweed coming from Japan, and even from certain English counties. It is with Harris tweed that the present article is concerned.

Spinning and weaving by hand must be one of the oldest of human occupations, and the most universal. Before the wool of sheep can be spun or woven it must be carded—that is, torn up and teased out into its individual strands. This is the most tedious process in tweed-making. It is, therefore, natural that carding machines should have been invented before spinning and weaving machinery. Up to 50 years ago or less, many country districts still had their flour and meal mills, and in sheep-farming districts there was a wool mill as well. These mills usually carded the locally grown wool, which was spun and woven at home by the owner and his family, for their own use as

blankets and cloth for suits and skirts, and even for petticoats.

In the more remote Highlands and islands of Scotland, carding was still done by hand up to very recent years. The old grannies of the family were content to sit by the peat fires and card wool all day, and so help to earn their keep. With the coming of old-age pensions the granny became a financial asset to the family, and gradually it became the custom to send the wool away to be carded at the nearest mill for a cash payment. Until this happened the making of Harris tweed from the native island sheep's wool in the Outer and Inner Hebrides was an entirely hand and home industry.

Harris tweed first became known to the general public about 1870, when a naval captain's wife opened a small shop in Edinburgh. She succeeded in interesting the local lairds in the industry, and the crofter weavers were greatly helped by the Countess of Dunmore and the Mackenzies of Gairloch. The name Harris tweed was thereafter used for all hand-made tweeds woven in any of the Outer or Inner Hebrides, and not only for the tweed made in the Island of Harris, which is one of the Outer Hebrides. Tweed made in Sutherland or Argyll or Inverness-shire is usually called Harris also.

One wonders now whether tweed-making in the isles is to survive as a local handicraft, or whether it will become industrialised and mechanised, and so enter into competition with the big mills of the Border, Yorkshire and other places. Cheap popularity and mass production have spoilt many things in recent years: it is to be hoped that this worthy industry will not be one of them.

Until the last war Harris tweed was made entirely from wool off the island sheep, Black-faced and Cheviot. It was carded, as I have already mentioned, by the older women at home or possibly in a small local carding mill; spun on the age-old spinning wheel by the younger women; dyed with the native plant dyes (brewed in a three-legged iron pot on a peat fire outside the house), woven on a primitive locally-made hand-loom by the father or son of the family, or possibly by the township weaver: "waulked," or shrunk, by a party of women and girls of the neighbourhood; and finally washed in the nearest burn, and stretched out to dry on a dry-stone wall or wire fence. Such a tweed is the creative work of a whole family; it is original and cannot be exactly copied, for the flowers and plants gathered under different conditions do not always yield the same colours. The individuality of the weaver is in every thread.

A "waulking" is a great social event in the life of a crofting township of the Hebrides. The girls sit round a long table in a barn, or in the living-room of the house. At one end the tweed is soaking in the waulking liquid. It is taken out, yard by yard, and passed along the table, being pounded and squeezed rhythmically as it is pushed along by the strong hands of the workers. To this rhythm the leading woman sings a waulking song, and all join in the chorus. Here laughter helps in the making of the tweed, as the leader of the singing deftly rhymes



CARDING WOOL BY HAND

Sometimes this is done before dyeing and sometimes after

some local topical gossip into the verses. Finally, when the tweed is rolled up, the two women who do this will sing a song of good wishes to the tweed and its future wearer as they pat and roll it into shape.

Will all this mean anything to the wearer or will he or she be just as happy and healthy wearing a mass-produced machine-made tweed, probably derived from mixed wool from several breeds of sheep, perhaps from imported wool, and possibly with some cotton or shoddy added? The question has a practical as well as a sentimental bearing. Hand-made tweed can be made of softer spun wool: it probably wears better because the strands of wool have not been subjected to the stresses and strains of machinery, or the effects of chemical dyes. The tweed keeps its shape better because the natural resilience of the wool is still there, and the natural oil has not been removed by chemical action. The colours from the vegetable dyes are softer and more pleasing. Moreover, they never change colour, but merely mellow with age. These are some of the qualities that will disappear if the old craftsmanship is allowed to die.

The last few generations have seen one rural craft after another disappear before the advance of mechanisation. It is part of the price we have to pay for a civilisation which grows more complex every day, and I am well aware that there are arguments on both sides. The mills that have been established in recent years for making the tweed employ a large number of people who were formerly independent crofters, eking out a precarious living on their small holdings and struggling unceasingly against bad weather and lack of transport. These people have been given a security they never knew before and a rapidly expanding market absorbs all they can make. The introduction of new trade-mark regulations 10 years ago has also standardised this type of Harris tweed.

Many people who are concerned for the future of the Highlands believe not only that the home industry should survive, but that it



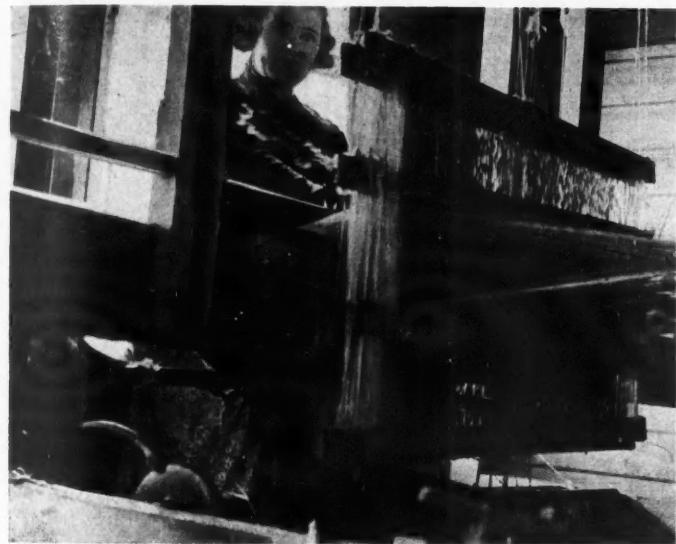
SPINNING ON THE OLD-FASHIONED SPINNING WHEEL

be permanently regulated, so that the all-hand-made and plant-dyed tweed gets a much higher price than the machine-made article.

In the past the crofter-weaver, with wife and daughters spinning and dyeing the wool, working in their own time and fitting in tweed-making with their agricultural work on the croft, or fishing, have been a great asset to the economy of island life, and if they were adequately paid for their labour there would still be a place for them in our Highland economy. The problem of marketing would remain, but it is not insuperable.

As mentioned already, a committee of the Scottish Council on Industry has recently been investigating this industry. I hope that this committee has visited the crofter-weaver on his remote croft, often with no road to it, and heard his views on tweed-making as it affects him. Too often in the past such committees have been content to take their evidence second-hand.

The Hebrides have produced many fine men and women, and it is subsidiary industries such as tweed-making, carried on altogether in their own homes, together with a better system of marketing the finished product, and improved agriculture and transport, that will stop the steady drift to the towns, and the rapid depopulation of the West Highlands and islands. The young men and women who have served their country so faithfully during the war are not likely to go back to the land of their fathers unless there is a better living to be made there, and better conditions than those which prevailed before the present conflict.



HAND-LOOM WEAVING

The shuttle carrying the weft is pushed by hand between the warps, which are raised and lowered alternately in pairs by the feet

could survive, if it were given reasonable protection, side by side with the mechanised industry. In the evidence given before the Scottish Council on Industry by the Scottish Agricultural Organisation Society it was stated that in a recent year 4,000,000 yds. of tweed were stamped with the Harris tweed trade mark. This would require 5,000,000 lb. of raw wool; yet only 200,000 lb. of wool are produced by the islands themselves. The wool for the mill-produced tweed is carded and spun by modern machinery and necessarily dyed with commercial dyes. Since the introduction of a trade mark it is obligatory to have it woven in the crofters' own homes on automatic "man-power" looms. Previous to that it was woven in the mills on the same looms. Provided these facts are generally known I have nothing to say against the new industry. My only purpose is to try to save the older industry from extinction, and I suggest that this can be done only by the issue of further trade-mark regulations. Definite distinctions should be made between tweed that is (a) entirely hand-spun and hand-woven, (b) hand-woven, but with the warp machine-spun and weft hand-spun, (c) machine-spun altogether, warp and weft, but hand-woven, (d) dyed with native plant dyes, (e) chemically dyed, (f) made entirely of native-grown Blaaface or Cheviot wool, and (g) made from other wool.

There should be some definition of what a hand-loom is, as tweed can be made twice as fast on one of the automatic Heversley looms as on one of the old type where the shuttle is passed along between the warps with the hand. The price should



THE FINISHED MATERIAL

After being waulked or shrunk the tweed is finally washed in running water

A LESSON FROM WATERLOO

A Golf Commentary by BERNARD DARWIN

WHEN we have thought, as we have all so often thought, of our soldiers in France, in Belgium and now in Holland and Germany, we have imagined them doing many things but probably not playing much golf. This was to do injustice to the fire and independence of their character. I have just had a letter from a young friend who took part in that breathless drive through France and Belgium, in the course of which he mentions that he did not see a single golf course after crossing the Seine until Eindhoven. When at last he had a little time to look round and got two days' leave in Brussels he and a companion instantly set out for Waterloo, a place at one time associated with the name of the Duke of Wellington, but more recently with that of Henry Cotton. They borrowed some clubs and some clothes and went out to play with the professional, Sys. The professional played very finely and they, as is not surprising, very badly, but my correspondent declares that he never enjoyed a round more in all his life.

* * *

What is more, it was played on a course which he describes as in magnificent order, with the bunkers perfectly kept and the greens "as good as St. Andrews or Mildenhall at their best." His only criticism is that the rough was cut a little short, but this has been done with the amiable intention of avoiding lost balls. I can hardly think that he felt very strongly on the point, as he was driving crooked and the present price of a re-paint in Brussels appears to be 250 francs. This idyllic state of things was apparently due to the fact that the Germans had taken no interest in the place and had left it at once severely and mercifully alone. The upper part of the club-house was not open, but the club rooms downstairs were, and a genius in the shape of a stewardess made a noble dish out of two tins of bully beef. And listen, ye golfers at home, to this, which I have kept to the end to make you green with envy! The repast was washed down with real martinis and—I declare I can hardly bear to write the word—with cointreau. The kindness of the professional and the club staff was, my correspondent declares, quite unforgettable, and the place a perfect little heaven far from the sounds of war.

* * *

It is delightful to think of our soldiers enjoying such a surcease, however brief, and apart from that obvious aspect of my story, there is one feature in it which will appeal to many. That is the comparatively mild character of the rough. There was not as far as I remember any fearful scarcity of golf balls during the last war. I recall my own dreadful anxiety lest the consignment being sent to me in Macedonia should be torpedoed on the way, and the corresponding joy with which I hugged the parcel to my breast when it arrived, but that was an exceptional and particular circumstance. Once at home again there was no dearth; one might be justifiably afraid of missing the ball but not of losing it. On the other hand, whereas this time, as far at least as I have seen, the rough has been kept strictly within bounds, then it had been allowed to grow to outrageous proportions. It was in some places not so much rough as jungle. If it were like that to-day it would need a brave man to take anything but a mashie from the tee, so precious has a golf ball become. The scarcity has made cowards of us all. Some little while ago I was playing a few holes on a course which has a carry of no very alarming length over a chalk pit. My partner was a professor, but he was also what professors rarely are, a good driver. Yet he blenched at the chalk pit and suggested that we should drive from another tee in the open country: nor was I unwilling.

Rough, when all is said, is nasty stuff. We have grown accustomed to it on many admirable heathery inland courses of which it is a necessary and integral part, but in itself I repeat that it is thoroughly nasty stuff, odious to get into and not, save from a purely sordid, match-winning point of view, any great fun to get out of. The

ideal course, and it is nearly always a seaside one, consists of the course and of bunkers and hazards and nothing else. That is not an entirely accurate description of St. Andrews, for one may get into both whins and heather, but generally speaking one is either on a fair stretch of turf or in the sandy maw of a bunker. At any rate, one is very, very seldom in that most unengaging form of rough which consists in coarse, long grass. At the present moment—or so it was when I was there a few days after D-day—there were unexpected little hayfields. There was one for instance near the second tee into which I saw a friend hit the ball hard off the heel of his club. There was another by the railings into which I saw a very bad player indeed dribble his ball from the first tee; but these were mere war-time excrescences and will doubtless disappear when peace comes. They resemble those unbecoming beards which our heroes nautical or military grow under stress of circumstances, but which are peeled off again as soon as possible.

* * *

It seems to me that "the rough" is a comparatively modern expression and as an integral part of a course even a comparatively modern institution. I write without the book, but I do not think its name is to be found in old golfing glossaries. It existed no doubt off the course, but it was not part of it. I seem in looking back to have played a good deal of golf on courses that were devoid of rough. I do not say they were all good courses, but they had that eminently soothing characteristic. One was Coldham Common at Cambridge, a large flat muddy expanse with here and there a still more muddy ditch. Unless I am deceived the lies were all equally good or bad, wherever one

drove, the grass as tussocky in one place as in another. In the Summer the grass was doubtless all long, but then we did not play there as a rule in the Summer. Then there was Royston, which in those days consisted of one vast stretch of down turf of exactly the same consistency. Something mysterious happened to it during the last war and to-day one must drive down an avenue between two lines of thick grass. It demands more accuracy, but it is in this one respect more commonplace than of old. It is no longer the perfect nursing home for the man who has lost his nerve from the tee. Finally there was my Macedonian course, full of rushes and railway lines and pond and ramparts and dead horses and fierce and horribly alive dogs. There was no lack of incident but, again in the Winter, no rough. In Summer it was otherwise; the thistles seem in memory to have been taller than I was but that again, like Coldham, was a Winter course.

* * *

Do not let it be thought that I want to abolish all rough off the face of the earth. From a purely selfish point of view I might ever wish it long and tangled, since I grow so short that I am less likely to reach it than other people and might thereby gain an advantage. Nevertheless I hope that till the Board of Trade releases still more balata (and like Mr. Micawber with the gowans I am not exactly aware what balata may be) and there is a plentiful supply of balls the rough will be kept under strict discipline. Last time we were promised a land fit for heroes to live in and this time we want courses fit for heroes to play on, heroes who are out of practice and have but few golf balls. The example of Waterloo is worth remembering.

RACING REVIEW AND PROSPECTS

IN every way the racing season that has just ended has been eminently satisfactory. After five years of war and the attendant inconveniences and restrictions, a deterioration in the quality of the horses was to be expected. Far from that they, or rather those that competed for the classic races, were far superior to those that competed for similar events last year, while the young stock running as two-year-olds may, again, prove to be of better quality than their elder relations. This it may quite likely be possible to prove, as the great majority of the leading three-year-old winners are, contrary to the, nowadays, usual custom, to be left in training to compete for the Cups in what it is generally hoped will be practically a pre-war season.

TEHRAN OR OCEAN SWELL?

The question whether the Aga Khan's colt Tehran or Lord Rosebery's colt Ocean Swell was or is the best of his age and sex is one that will be discussed during many Winter evenings. The form that matters between the two is just this: In the Two Thousand Guineas Tehran was third to Garden Path and Growing Confidence with Ocean Swell unplaced; in the Derby Ocean Swell won by a neck from Tehran with Happy Landing a short head farther behind; in the St. Leger Tehran accredited the Aga Khan with his fifth success in the long-distance classic and beat Borealis by a length and a half, with Ocean Swell a further length in the rear. These three races left Ocean Swell and Tehran practically the same horse on different days. Following them Ocean Swell scored in the Jockey Club Cup, which is run over a distance of two miles and a quarter, in ready fashion with six others behind him, and it is on this race, or rather on the way in which he came out to win it, that it is possible to make him out the better of the two and the most likely of

the two to go on to Cup honours next season.

On breeding there is as little between them as there is on form. Both coming from among the first crop of runners of their respective sires, Tehran is by the Derby winner, Bois Roussel from Staferalla, a daughter of the St. Leger winner, Solario, who comes of the Pretty Polly line, while Ocean Swell is by the Derby winner, Blue Peter out of Jiffy, she by the St. Leger winner, Hurry On, from a mare who descends from Chelandy, the One Thousand Guineas winner.

HYCILLA AND ROCKEFELLA

Danger to these two, from among the three-year-olds of to-day, can come only from Hycilla and Rockefella. The former, who won the Oaks and the Champion Stakes but ran very disappointingly in the St. Leger, is about the best of her sex and is by the Derby and St. Leger winner, Hyperion, from Priscilla Carter, an American-bred mare who is ineligible for entry in the General Stud Book. Rockefella, who was bred by and belongs to Sir Hugo Cunliffe-Owen, also claims Hyperion as his sire and is the only produce of Rockfel, a daughter of the Derby winner, Felstead, who won the One Thousand Guineas, the Oaks and the Champion Stakes of 1938. Rockefella, who is trained by Captain O. M. D. Bell at Lambourn, was never well enough to take part in the classics but just lately has shown what a good horse he may eventually turn out to be. Few trainers would have had the patience to persevere with a colt in the way that Captain Bell has done with this one, and it is to be sincerely hoped that he will have no more trouble and that the colt will continue to improve throughout the Winter and will be fit and well when the time comes for him to meet those mentioned, with in addition Lady Zia Wernher's four-year-old Persian Gulf.

A half-brother, by Bahram, to the

Gold Cup winner, Precipitation and to Casanova from the Cambridgeshire winner, Double Life, Persian Gulf has so far, like Rockefella, had a career cast in arduous ways, but there have been several occasions when his running suggested that he was the best of last year's three-year-olds. He is trained by Captain Boyd-Rochford at Freemason Lodge, Newmarket, and is a colt with immense possibilities.

LEADING JUVENILES

Let us now turn to the leading juveniles. I come to those which will be the leading three-year-olds of next season. The best colt and the best filly that have been seen out among the youngsters are, without doubt, Dante and Neola, both of whom are by the Italian-bred horse, Nearco, who was never beaten and won fourteen races, including the Italian Derby and Grand Prix de Paris. Dante, who is a grandly-made dark brown with an impressive quality of power, belongs to Sir Eric Ohlson and is the first thoroughbred he ever bred. She is from Rosy Legend, a French-bred winning mare by Dark Legend. Neola, who is also a brown and is an all-quality racy-like filly, is owned by Mr. J. A. Dewar. She comes from Sansonnet, a Sansovino mare who, like Jurisdiction, The Recorder, The Black Abbot, Riot, Giftlaw and Fair Trial, was from the Jockey Club Cup winner, Lady Juror, who was one of the best, if not the best, mares Son-in-Law ever sired. So far the Nearco stock have not improved and increased in stamina with age but have shown of their best as youngsters. Maybe these two will alter this. Dante is with Mathew Peacock at Middleham. Neola is at Beckhampton under the care of Fred Darling, who, as everybody knows, specialises in classic winners.

Though this brace stand out, the remaining leading juveniles are a better lot than usual. Brief reference to the more important must suffice. Miss Dorothy Paget has a likely couple of so far unnamed colts with Walter Nightingall. Both sale purchases, the one is by the St. Leger and Ascot Gold Cup winner, Solaris from Growing Confidence's dam, Tornadic, and cost 600gs. as a yearling; the other made 5,300gs. at the same age and is by the French Derby and Grand Prix de Paris winner, Mieuxce, out of Queen Christina, a half-sister, by Buchan, to the Ascot Gold Vase winner, Fearless Fox. This colt is a half-brother to such good winners as Orthodox

and Eleanor Cross and to a yearling who was sold in September for 12,500gs.

These will be Miss Paget's "sheet anchors" but she is not likely to have it all her own way, as both Chamossaire and Paper Weight have done all that they have been asked to do. The former, who is a product of the National Stud, is owned by Squadron Leader Stanhope Joel and trained by Dick Perryman, is by Precipitation from Snowberry, a half-sister to Big Game; the latter belongs to and was bred by Sir Alfred Butt and is by Colorado Kid from Art Paper, she by the Welsh Derby winner, Artist's Proof, who was by Gainsborough. Paper Weight is with Frank Butters, who has also Darbhanga, a colt by Dastur from Mumtaz Begum, she by Blenheim out of Mumtaz Mahal, who belongs to the Aga Khan and was bred by him.

The last to be mentioned must be Court Martial and Loretto, who hail respectively from Joe Lawson's Manton stable and from Fred Darling's establishment at Beckhampton. Court Martial is a chestnut son of Fair Trial from Instantaneous, a Hurry On mare who has also bred Way In. He belongs to Lord Astor. Loretto is one of Mrs. Macdonald-Buchanan's and is by the Derby winner, Felstead, from Fair Diana, she by Hurry On. A rare classic pedigree this; Loretto is distinctly one to note.

Meanwhile the December Sales are close at hand, and as one of the features of the catalogue there will be Sister Clara, a six-year-old half-sister to Sun Chariot, who is listed by the one-time steeplechase jockey, Major Doyle, and is carrying to Bahram's half-brother, Dastur.

ROYSTON.



DANTE WILL BE A LEADING THREE-YEAR-OLD NEXT SEASON

BRITAIN'S GOOD EARTH

THOUGH ideas about "Nutrition" still vary from those of the stalwarts of the Food and Wine Society (who agree with the late Miss Marie Lloyd that a little of what you fancy does you a lot of good) to those of conservative dietitians who cling obstinately to calories and have been known to sniff at the multiplicity of vitamins—there can be no doubt, judging by the rapid succession of well-informed authors who take it, that the nutritional approach is to-day the royal road to agricultural progress. And they are many, some covering with their urgent pleas for the physical rehabilitation of mankind the agriculture of continents, some content to propound a post-war agricultural policy within the compass of their own country and others—not the least useful—dealing with specific problems in specific branches of farming practice. The last-named may be more concerned with matters of technical efficiency, it is true, but the basic criterion of expanding production, of national value, is there all the same.

* * *

Similar problems confront other nations and both have to be considered in the countries whose *Agrarian Problems from the Baltic to the Aegean* are dealt with in the little volume issued by the Royal Society of International Affairs (3s.). It has a very sensible and readable introduction from Sir John Russell, who maintains that there can be no permanent peace in Europe until the peasants, who have caught a glimpse of a fuller world than they have ever known, can be given a more satisfying life.

So far as this country is concerned, the many authoritative declarations of political, professional and agricultural bodies which wartime has produced are being followed up and discussed, illustrated (and sometimes controverted) in many contributions to agricultural thought ranging from such simple declarations of faith as that of Mr. Arthur May in his *Britain's Good Earth* (W. H. Allen, 3s. 6d.) to Mr. John Drummond's "fearless plan for better food and the building-up of soil fertility" which, his publisher claims, is "the most complete yet put forward." Mr. May makes no claim to experience. He is "a man in the street who

happens to have a firm belief that no great nation can retain its rightful place in the world unless its agriculture is on a sound foundation." For all his modesty, however, he thinks clearly, realises the importance of reduced costs as well as that of increased production per acre and has interesting suggestions to offer with regard to the size of farming units and "clerical work for farmers." In his *Charter for the Soil* (Faber, 10s. 6d.) Mr. Drummond, who describes himself as "a small Scottish laird, brought up in the traditional school," works out from the results of his own lifetime of varied farming a completed system, in which British farmers, he thinks, may find themselves on a new footing among the agriculturists of the world. They will "automatically suppress the old gold standard and create a new standard, the food standard, which they will fix themselves and on which all the other wages and prices of the world's commodities will depend." As will be seen the book is an ambitious one and we cannot discuss Mr. Drummond's scheme here. But it is most stimulating reading.

* * *

The less systematic farming books of this Autumn might be fittingly introduced by Mr. W. S. Mansfield's *Farming Talks* (Littlebury, Worcester, 7s. 6d.). Mr. Mansfield is well known not only as the Director of the Cambridge University Farm but as a most interesting and successful broadcaster on serious farming subjects. In the new volume more than twenty of his talks are given precisely as they were spoken and gain much in freshness by this wise editorial restraint. The specific problems

of Robert McCarrison's Cantor Lectures, originally delivered before the Royal Society of Arts in 1936, marked a change of thought in this direction, as very many references by subsequent writers have shown. The lectures have been out of print for years, but their thesis, that the greatest single factor in the acquisition and maintenance of good health is perfectly constituted food" is now an established fact upon which the United Nations Conference at Hot Springs has set its seal. Their re-issue by Faber at the present time (*Nutrition*

with which he deals are common to most farms in this country, but Mr. Alan Bloom in *The Farm in the Fen* (Faber, 10s. 6d.) tells us a story which is largely one of reclamation and of the struggle between man and water. When Mr. Bloom bought his farm he found that efficient farming was well-nigh impossible. His determination to reclaim, however, was rewarded by the chance given to him to tackle the three hundred acres of Adventurers' Fen of which the National Trust had become the owners. His book is largely concerned therefore with one of the most interesting pieces of war-time food production. Read as such it makes a fascinating story,

but it is not without its valuable reflections on the need of tackling national reclamation as a whole.

Mr. Frank Sykes in *This Farming Business* also tells the story of a farming adventure and of the use of new experiments and new methods. He has been inspired by such *cognoscenti* as the late R. H. Elliot of Clifton Park and Sir George Stapledon and he believes that the advances of modern science and modern methods have put a new instrument in the farmer's hand. Mr. Sykes farms and manages 3,500 acres in South Wiltshire and his experiences, though limited so far as years are concerned, have given him a

thorough insight into the problems which face the reformers and improvers of these days. Mr. Bedford Franklin on the other hand, in *Good Pastures* (Cambridge University Press, 3s. 6d.), reverts with equal enthusiasm to the past. His memories of farming fifty years ago are compiled largely from notes made by his father, C. H. B. Franklin, who farmed Shulanger Grove, Towcester, for thirty years. To some extent this has its prevailing value as a "historical document," but it is interspersed with much farming wisdom which it will do the most zealous of reformers little harm to ponder.

W. E. B.

CORRESPONDENCE

THE GLASS MYSTERY

SIR.—You published recently in COUNTRY LIFE a letter of mine relating to the shattering of a glass tumbler. This has resulted in my receiving a lot of letters, some giving details of similar experiences and some offering explanations.

A chemist has given me the following explanation of the mystery:

Glass, as we know it, is a colloidal or amorphous substance, but in reality it is crystalline, in which state it naturally crumbles, but this is prevented in the manufactured state by the process of annealing, that is heating for a given time and gradually cooling, which prevents it from attaining the crystalline state.

In the case of "toughened" glass, this is done, I believe, by heating in oil instead of air, and such glass will stand physical shocks, for example, dropping, without breaking, where the other will not. But its physical condition is insecure and, with no apparent cause, it will pass suddenly into the crystalline state and fall into fragments.—R. F. MARTIN, *Truants, Aylesbeare, Devon.*

MEMORABLE DERBYS

SIR.—I was indeed interested in the account in a recent issue of the 1844 Derby by Major-General Sir John Hanbury-Williams, illustrated with such a capital picture depicting the start of what has been handed down

aroused owing to his hasty burial, the grave was opened and a post-mortem examination made. This proved that Leander was at least a four-year-old and that his teeth had been tampered with in order to falsify his age. Bishop was the name of the veterinary surgeon who investigated the case: hence we get the term "bishoping" for the malpractice of making an old mouth look younger by the centre of the tables of the incisor teeth being gouged out, and a false mark with caustic being applied.

This "fiasco" Derby provided yet another sensation, as an enquiry into the running of a colt by name Ratan revealed the fact that he had been doped and his owner was accordingly warned off. It is sad to think that the Derby of that year, which is so gaily presented in General Hanbury-Williams's admirable picture, should have ended in such disaster for those innocent equine victims of man's inhumanity.

The most sensational Derby of modern times was that of 1913, when the unfortunate Craganour, who finished first, was disqualified by the Stewards, who acted on their own initiative. The race was awarded to Abyeur, a 100 to 1 chance. While the race was in progress a Suffragette threw herself in front of the King's horse Anmer at Tattenham Corner, bringing the colt down and injuring the jockey Herbert Jones. Craganour was a clinking fine horse and was sold to the Argentine with the stipulation that he was never to race again. He proved himself a most successful sire.

One would value General Hanbury-Williams's views on the Bend Or Case, one of the causes célèbres of the Turf. What was the foundation for the stud groom's statement that Bend Or, the winner was not by Doncaster out of Rouge Rose, and that as a yearling he had been accidentally changed with Tadcaster? An objection was lodged by the owner of Robert the Devil but was overruled by the Stewards of the Jockey Club after four days' consideration.

—F. C. HITCHCOCK (Major), *Phoenix Lodge, Dunmurry, Ireland.*



BELL-TOWER WARNING
See letter: Bell-Ringers, Beware!

in the records of the Epsom classic as the most notorious Derby.

Sir John refers to the falsely described three-year-old Running Rein which was proved to be the four-year-old Maccabaeus and which was disqualified on an objection. Maccabaeus also raced under the nomenclature of Zanoni.

Besides this equine impostor the 1844 Derby provided another intriguing story. Apparently there was a real upset at Tattenham Corner, which resulted in one of the runners called Leander coming down and smashing his fetlock joint. The horse was destroyed and interred near Tattenham Corner. Suspicion was

BELL-RINGERS, BEWARE!

SIR.—The notice (of which I enclose a photograph) displayed in the bell tower of Bugbrook Church, Northamptonshire, gives the clearest warning of the results of infringement of the bell-ringing rules.—P. H. LOVELL, 28, Albury Drive, Pinner, Middlesex.

TENDRIL'S TWO-WAY TWIST

SIR.—This Summer I noticed what was to me a remarkable phenomenon on my marrow plants. Some of the coiled tendrils had attached themselves to objects near the bed, while others

were free and unattached to any support.

The peculiar thing was that in the free tendrils the twist of the spiral was continuous and all in one direction; while all the tendrils attached to objects showed a reversal as they



HAS IT EYES?

See letter: Tendril's Two-Way Twist

approached the support of the direction of twist in the manner shown in the accompanying photograph. I have marked the point of reversal with an arrow.—A. W. BULL, 21, Derby Road, Beeston, Nottinghamshire.

SQUIRREL v. MAGPIES

SIR.—I spent part of my Summer holidays in a boys' camp by the River Usk, South Wales, where I saw a rather strange battle. Being one of the youngest boys I had been left to mind the tent, when I heard a frightful screeching. I rushed out and saw a magpie flying at a squirrel high up in an elm tree. The poor squirrel rushed about trying to escape, but he found his retreat cut off by a second magpie. He then sat up, tucked his tail over his head, and when one of the magpies flew at him again he hit it on the head with his fore-paws and then bit it in the neck, shook it and clawed it for a few minutes, then dropped it on to a lower branch where it remained for two days and then suddenly disappeared.

The other bird flew away, and I did not see another magpie in that district during the rest of the time I stayed there.—R. C. PILLIDGE, *The Small House, Farnham Common, Buckinghamshire.*

THE INVENTOR OF SHRAPNEL

SIR.—Inscriptions on the pillars which support the double entrance to Midway Manor, near Bradford-on-Avon claim that as many as twenty campaigns or battles were won by the British Army by the employment of shrapnel. On the top of each gatepost is a heap of cannon-balls (of which I enclose a photograph), fitted with their knob-like fuse-caps. There is also a stone carving depicting cannon ball with a portion cut away to show the shrapnel.

Midway Manor was the home of

the parents of General Shrapnel, inventor of the shrapnel shell.—J. ENTON ROBINSON, *The Cottage, Langholm Crescent, Darlington, Durham.*

THE LASS OF RICHMOND HILL

SIR.—It might interest your correspondent Mr. M. W. Brockwell and other readers to read what a contemporary has to say about Leonard M'Nally (or MacNally) and his wife the Lass of Richmond Hill.

Sir Jonah Barrington was practising at the Irish Bar at the same time as M'Nally and fought a duel with him in which the latter's life was saved by the ball hitting the buckle of his braces. I quote from Sir Jonah's *Memoirs*, published in 1827:

Leonard M'Nally, well known both at the English and Irish bars, was one of the strangest fellows in the world. He was very short and nearly as broad as long, his legs were of unequal length and he had a face which no washing would clean. He was a good-natured, talented, dirty fellow and had by the latter qualification so disgusted the circuit bar that they refused to receive him into their mess, a piece of cruelty I set my face against.

He was a great poetaster and having fallen in love with a Miss Janson, daughter of a rich attorney of Bedford Row, London, he wrote on her the celebrated song *The Lass of Richmond Hill*—her father had a lodge there. This young lady was absolutely beautiful but quite a slattern in her person; she likewise had a turn for versification and was therefore well adapted to her lame lover, particularly as she never could spare time from her poetry to wash her hands.

The father refused his consent and M'Nally taking advantage of his dramatic knowledge by adopting the precedent of Barnaby Brittle bribed a barber to lather old Janson's eyes as well as his chin. Slipping out of the room while her father was getting rid of the smart this Sappho with her limping Phaon escaped, and were united in matrimony the same evening. This curious couple conducted



SHRAPNEL MEMORIA

See letter: The Inventor of Shrapnel

themselves both generally and towards each other extremely well, old Janson partly forgave them and made some settlement upon their children.—*C. BURGOYNE, Lagore, Ratoath, County Meath, Eire.*

SPEED OF SNAKES

SIR,—I have been much interested by the letters on the speed of snakes.

In the middle 'nineties I was quartered with my regiment in what were then the North West Provinces of India. One day, in cold weather, we were doing squadron training on the open parade ground (maidan). The squadron was galloping in line. I was one of the troop leaders.

I noticed a snake, several feet long, which had evidently been frightened out of its hole by the drumming of hoofs. It was covering the ground like a whip lash at what looked like great speed. The squadron quickly overran it.

Those days, if I remember rightly, the official pace for parade gallop was 15 miles an hour, but not having my old drill book handy I stand open to correction. But, given that speed, six or seven miles an hour was the utmost that could be conceded to a big snake, terrified, and going, as they used to say, "eighteen annas."—*MAURICE CAILLARD (Major), Mael Gwyn, Harlech, Merioneth.*

AN UNIDENTIFIED BYGONE

SIR,—I am enclosing a sketch of an old iron instrument which has been unearthed here. It was found embedded in the ground underneath the roots of a spruce tree which was blown down early this year. As the age of the spruce is over 100 years, it must have last been in use at least as long ago as that.

The over-all length from the point to the top of the figure-of-eight-shaped strap is 10 ins. The strap is of thin metal 2 ins. wide, and the ends, which are not closed up, would have had a certain amount of spring. Its general condition is quite fair, though of course badly rusted.

A short piece from one end of the strap was rusted through and broke away.

The purpose for which it was used is not at all obvious, but it seems to have been intended for sticking in the ground. The twist, apart

WHAT IS IT? *See letter: An Unidentified Bygone*

could hardly be hammered or tapped into timber as the strap would not be suitable for taking blows. The spruce was on the edge of a wood, which possibly suggests use in connection with forestry, though I cannot think of anything really likely.

I am hoping that someone will recognise what it is and can explain its use.—*W. B. CARNEY-ARBUTHNOTT, Balnamoon, near Brechin, Angus, Scotland.*

GOLD-FISH IN BOMB SMASH

SIR,—This true story of a London raid which occurred close to where I then worked in London was told to me by friends who witnessed what happened.

A short street of small Georgian houses connecting two well-known squares in the West End of London was hit by a bomb dropped by a raider in a night raid early this year. The main was hit, causing a large fire. In house two doors from where the



A NATURE FREAK
See letter: Tree Poodle

sieve and the empty shells are thrown out. Most of the shells are crushed in a small mill and the broken shells are sent to poultry merchants all over the country as grit for chickens.—*H. SMITH, 9, Merlites Close, Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex.*

TREE POODLE

SIR,—Here is an example—at Kew—of the strange ways of Nature. Assisted, perhaps, by the wind, she has produced a very good representation of a poodle. Have any of your readers photographed anything similar?—*CHAS. J. HANKINSON, Ealing, W.5.*

BEE-EATING STARLINGS?

SIR,—With reference to the correspondence about bee-eating swallows, I should like to ask whether starlings are not also developing a similar taste.

On sunny, quiet autumnal days in recent years I have several times seen these birds apparently hunting for insects, rising almost perpendicularly to catch them, while on a calm evening recently I observed a flock of some 20 quartering the sky over a field after the manner of swallows at a considerable height, alternately volplaning and diving as they circled. I watched the proceedings for quite a time until they seemed to make up their minds to fly away home in the usual direct manner of the breed.—*GEORGE DRYSDALE, Oakmount, Edgbaston, Birmingham.*

THE TOWER AT CLUNY

SIR,—In the beautifully illustrated article on Suffolk church towers in COUNTRY LIFE I see no mention of the probable origin of the top storey of so many of these towers. Yet I believe it is correct to say there is among ecclesiologists an accepted theory.

My photograph of the tower that still stands in the ruins of one of the most famous Benedictine abbeys in the world, Cluny in Burgundy, shows that it has an octagonal top. This mother house "set the fashion" for

this style of architecture all over Europe. England was rich in churches and religious houses under Cluniac rule, and many remain. Once in Norfolk I remember seeing a beautiful octagonal tower in an out-of-the-way village; enquiries elucidated the fact that a religious house of Cluniac Benedictines had existed for generations in the vicinity.

The ruin of Cluny was one of the tragedies of the Revolution.—*DOROTHY HAMILTON DEAN, The Hollies, Buckfastleigh, South Devon.*

AUTUMN DRUMMING OF WOODPECKERS

SIR,—It may interest some of your readers to hear that at about 11.20 a.m. on October 8 I heard a woodpecker drumming. I was so surprised to hear one at this time of year that I immediately went to investigate. I found a lesser spotted woodpecker on an oak tree. This tree has many dead branches, though the main limbs are alive, and it is frequently used for drumming in the Spring.



OCTAGONAL TOWER OF THE RUINED BENEDICTINE ABBEY AT CLUNY
See letter: The Tower at Cluny

The bird flitted about and frequently drummed on different branches for short periods, lasting perhaps one or two seconds on each occasion. The notes of the drumming from the different branches, with one exception, were similar as far as I—with a poor musical ear—could distinguish and were very typical of the normal Spring drumming note. The exception was totally different and was a much higher-pitched note. I clearly saw the bird when it was making this high-pitched note. Instead of being on the dead branch while drumming, as is usual, the bird perched on the main live branch and drummed against the small dead branch about a couple of inches from its base. I noticed on the other occasions that the bird drummed at varying distances from the base but each time perched on the branch concerned.

The bird continued to drum at intervals for about fifteen to twenty minutes.

With regard to the old controversy as to whether the bird makes the drumming sound mechanically or vocally, it may be of interest that I satisfied myself on this point some years ago. At Waggoners Wells near Hindhead, Surrey, the National Trust property contains a wooded valley with steep sides leading down to three "hammer ponds." In the Spring-time there used to be a lot of woodpeckers here which flew excitedly



BAWLEYS AT ANCHOR IN LEIGH CREEK
See letter: Thames Cockle Industry

among and over the trees, and drumming was frequently heard.

On one occasion three of them were drumming simultaneously, two making a normal drumming noise but the third a most peculiar sound. This was more like the noise of the Indian bird—the coppersmith—than the normal woodpecker drumming. It was not really a drumming but a slow "tonking" on what sounded like a hollow tube. I went to investigate and the bird flew off as I approached and circled about the trees, thereby exciting the other two drummers, who likewise flew round. However, I carefully watched "the coppersmith bird" until he alighted near one of the other drumming posts. Meanwhile one of the other woodpeckers had flown to the post "the coppersmith" had just vacated. I was surprised to find that this new bird then made the coppersmith sound, while the original "coppersmith bird" made the normal drumming sound from his new station.

From this I concluded that the sound was made by the bird mechanically striking the dead branch with its beak, and moreover that only certain



LAKE DISTRICT SPINNING GALLERY

See letter: Spinning Gallery

branches which were dead but not rotten could be used by the birds. From my latest observations I am inclined to think that not only must certain branches which are dead but not rotten be used for drumming, but that each branch so used must be struck in its own particular place, according to its length and diameter, in order to produce the normal characteristic drumming sound. In other words that sound dead branches act like xylophone bar and have to be struck at their own characteristic point to produce the drumming note.—L. P. CAUSTON (Capt.), Sun Hoe, Church Avenue, Farnborough, Hampshire.

[We are not aware of any previous record of the lesser spotted woodpecker drumming in Autumn. We congratulate our correspondent on his excellent evidence as to the mechanical nature of drumming.—ED.]

OLD FIRE ENGINE

SIR,—I have been interested in reading the Rev. C. Carew Cox's letter in your issue of October 20 about the fire engine of 1710 at Lyme Regis, Dorset. A machine identical with the one you illustrated stood in the Pannier Market at South Molton, North Devon, in my boyhood days and I recall "giving a hand" now and again for practice purposes, nearly 60 years ago.

There is no doubt that these machines were provided by the insurance companies, and I remember that in the old cobbler's shop (the rendezvous of boys in lieu of a smithy) were a number of firemen's hats with a cloth band bearing the words West of England Fire Insr. Co.—KINGSLAND JUTSUM, Anchor Head Hotel, Weston-super-Mare, Somerset.

IRON-STAND EXHORTATION

SIR,—An addition to the ancient kitchen equipment of Sulgrave Manor, Northamptonshire, is this little heart-shaped brass stand, nine inches long and resting on five short feet, designed as a support for a flat iron or box iron, and made, probably at Birmingham, about a hundred years ago.

It came from Edale in Derbyshire, and has been given to Sulgrave Manor by a descendant of the original owner.—H. CLIFFORD SMITH, Highclere, near Newbury, Berkshire.

CRICKET JUG

SIR,—I was interested to see in a recent issue the illustration and account of the cricketing jug. A few years ago I bought one from W. Pease of Friar Lane, Nottingham.

I gave it to my nephew Charles Harrington Manners, in whose possession it is now.—RACHEL L. MANNERS, Inniswood, Mansfield, Nottinghamshire.

SPINNING GALLERY

SIR,—The enclosed photograph shows a stone cottage at Low Hartstop, near Brother's Water, Lake District, which is one of three in this small village having a "spinning gallery." It seems that the cottages are so dark inside that these galleries were used to give protection from the weather, yet admitting sufficient light for spinning.

One of the other cottages has a gallery constructed of stone, with an outside stairway—also of stone. The other gallery is wooden, but is falling to pieces.

Although I was told in the district that these galleries were once to be found in other villages, I did not see any elsewhere.—E. RICHARDSON, 27, Villiers Road, West Bridgford, Nottinghamshire.

A DOG GENIUS

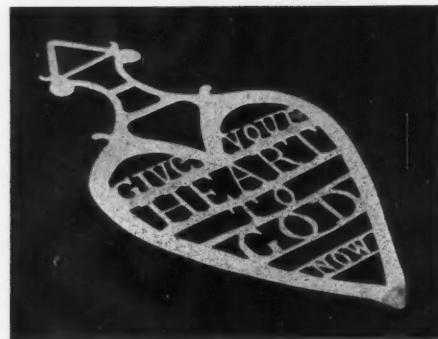
SIR,—John Elliot, deerstalker to the Duke of Westminster in the Reay Forest in Sutherland, tells me the following remarkable story of the intelligence, even genius, of a collie dog named Don. Like many a human genius the dog went off his head, and had to be put away.

The scene of the occurrence is the lonely country between Glen Coul and Glen Dhu. The human characters in the story are two deer-stalkers, John Elliot and his brother Matthew, Don's master.

Matthew at the time was stalker in Glen Coul, and he and Don used sometimes to walk over the hill to visit John at Glen Dhu, a distance of five miles.

One day the collie arrived at Glen Dhu by himself and John tied a message enclosed in a bag to his neck and sent him back home. The collie soon became the regular means of communication between the brothers.

Now comes the almost unbelievable evidence of the dog's wisdom. It was wild weather, and a cousin of the Elliots, with her small girl, was on a visit to Glen Coul. The weather was so severe that the visitors were unable to return home. After a discussion of the affair (no doubt in the hearing of the dog) it was decided to send the dog to Glen Dhu with a message to



A BRASS STAND FOR A FLAT IRON.
Circa 1830

See letter: Iron-Stand Exhortation

ask John to get word through to their cousin's husband that she and her daughter were storm-stayed. Don crossed the hill track to Glen Dhu. John Elliot saw him coming, but for the first time the dog did not stop at the house, but continued toward Kylestrom, five miles farther on, and over rough ground. It was later ascertained that the animal had gone straight to Kylestrom and found the woman's husband, who removed the bag from Don's neck and received the letter from his wife.

On no other occasion did the collie pass John's house. The only explanation possible is that the dog had overheard and understood the conversation and had acted accordingly.—SETON GORDON, Upper Duntrum, Isle of Skye.

TOWN BOYS' COUNTRY CRUELTY

SIR,—I was interested in the recent letter on town boys' country cruelty as I feel strongly on this subject and have had some experience of evacuees in the country. I think your correspondent is right in her opinion that much of their cruelty to small animals is due to ignorance.

For a considerable period at the beginning the war I was able to take a party of town boys, who were billeted in an Angus farm-house, for a ramble once a week. They knew nothing about country life at first, but



EVACUEES WITH YOUNG CURLEWS

See letter: Town Boys' Country Cruelty

were keenly interested in anything that was shown or explained to them. The main trouble was that they could not keep their hands off anything alive; it was invariably passed from one to the other to be stroked. If it tried to escape it was followed by grasping hands and loud shouts until, panic-stricken, it was caught once more; occasionally in its struggles it was hurt.

Gradually the boys learned some sense, but it took a long time; yet in all my experience they were never intentionally cruel. (I admit I have heard of other cases where that was

not so.) They all wanted to keep pets, but they had no idea how they should be treated. For instance, they were surprised that an almost solid mass of sticklebacks in a jar, with a large chunk of bread for food, did not survive very long, and that baby rabbits did not seem to enjoy confinement in a little coop and continual handling.

But when your correspondent "appeals to all schoolteachers in safe areas where we have so many evacuees from London to teach these children to understand the country and Nature," I am doubtful whether we can hope for anything much in the way of results. If she means country schoolteachers, they will undoubtedly do their best, but they will probably be swamped by numbers. If she means town teachers, judging from my own experience, they know little more than the children themselves, and are often quite uninterested in the life of the countryside.

It is difficult to suggest a remedy. I feel that the "kindness to animals" line should be taken more definitely in nature teaching in schools, instead of general instruction about the growth of trees, flowers, etc. Good work is being done in this direction by the leaders of wolf cubs, boy scouts, and other youth organisations, but there is a great deal more that needs to be done, not only among London children, but in many other places, both town and country.

I wonder if the accompanying photograph of a group of the Angus evacuees would be of interest. They are shown with a family of young curlews, all being handled of course, but in this instance quite gently.—T. LESLIE SMITH, Ashwood, Broughty Ferry, Angus.

COUNTRY BOYS TOO

SIR,—Your recent correspondence on cruelty has interested me in view of my own experience, during wartime visits to the country. The particular village I have in mind does not contain town evacuees, but on practically every visit I have made I have found it necessary to remonstrate with certain local-born boys, when I have seen them acting in a way to cattle and poultry that was horrifying to a townsman. On two occasions horses have had to be destroyed after being chased into barbed-wire and ditches.

They seemed to think that there was nothing wrong in what they were doing and I can only conclude that it is a cruel streak in some boys—town or country—that is mainly responsible.—C. M. COOK, Croxley Green, Hertfordshire.

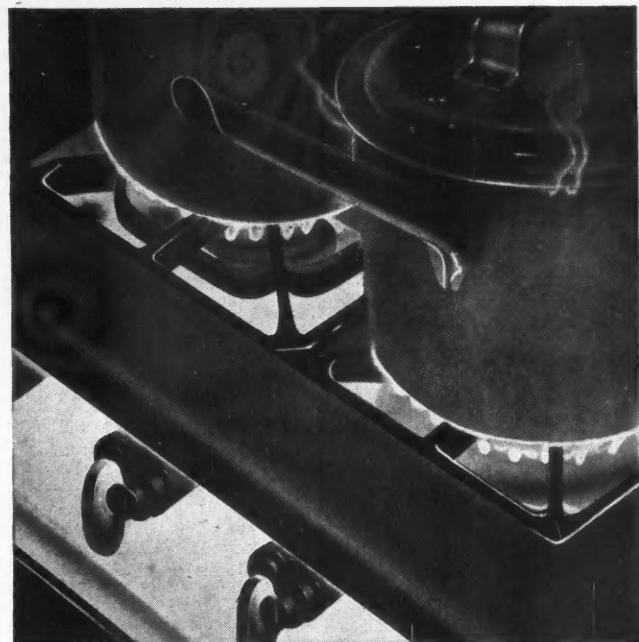
We are obliged to a correspondent who draws our attention to an obvious slip in Mr. L. S. Amery's recent letter on *New Bayeux Tapestry*. The literal meaning of "Eisenhower" is, of course, "Hewer of Iron" and not "Hewer of Stone."

ESTB. 1742

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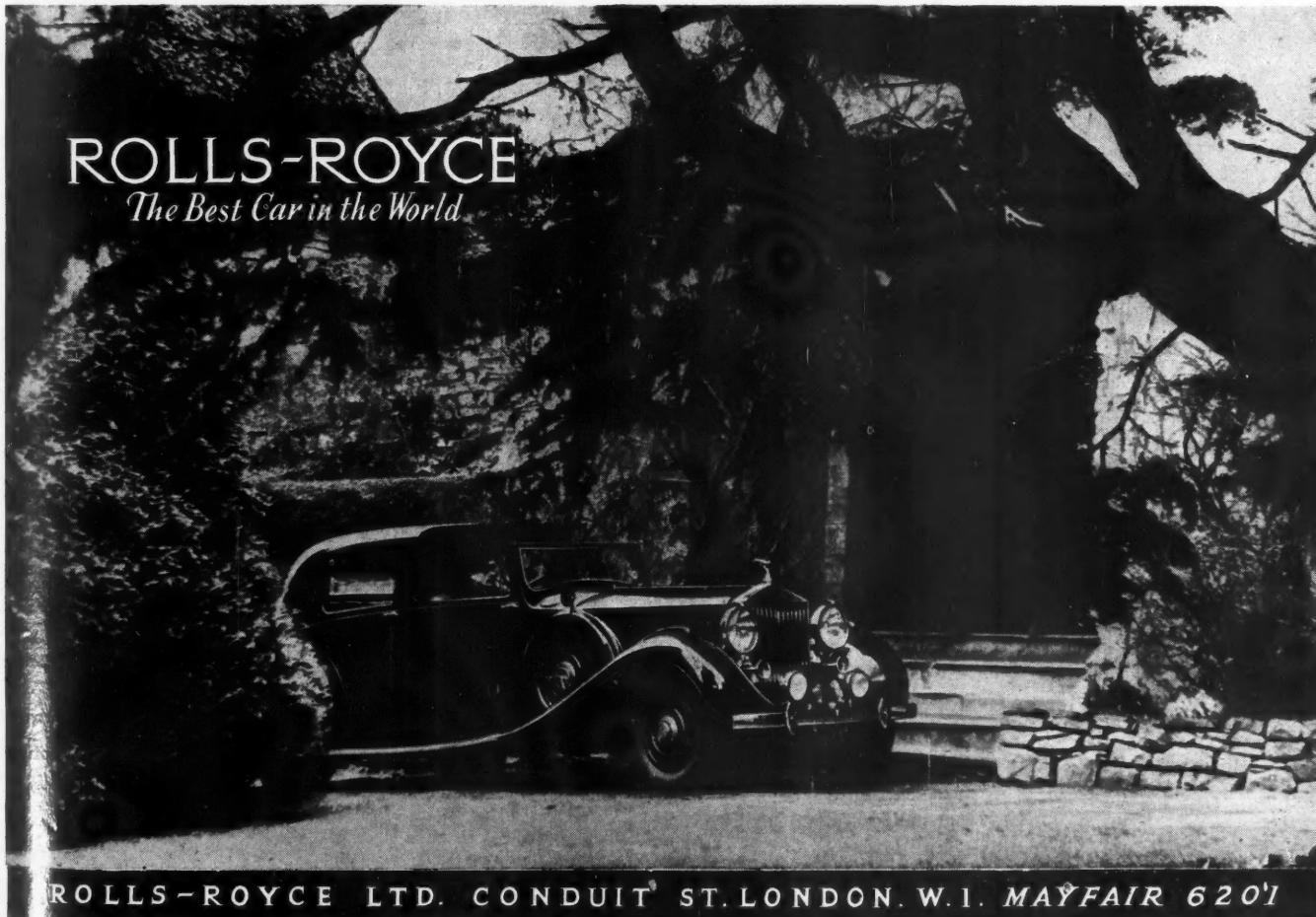
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FARMING NOTES

WHAT ABOUT A LAND GIRL?

THOSE who complain of shortage of labour on their farms are usually met with the question: What about a land girl? To the credit of the Women's Land Army such answering retorts as "No, thank you" or "I have tried one and that was enough" become less and less common. Apart from the many who really cannot provide or find board and lodging for a girl, I find that those who still show this attitude rather give themselves away. They are lacking in enterprise in not having really set about making the necessary arrangements or lacking in understanding and patience in giving instruction and encouragement during those first vital weeks, or lacking in perseverance in not trying again if the first or even the second girl sent to them has proved a misfit.

A Free Advertisement

To all such I recommend that they read Miss V. Sackville-West's book *The Women's Land Army*. This has already been reviewed in the Press, but it is not yet sufficiently known. All proceeds from this publication are being given to the W.L.A. Benevolent Fund, so I have no hesitation in giving it another recommendation, even if for the time being it is sold out. Orders can always be placed. It costs 5s., contains 64 admirable illustrations, and is written with that imaginative touch and technical skill which we expect from Miss Sackville-West.

Moreover her technical skill is not confined to the art of writing: it extends to the art of farming. Any countryman who has read her poem *The Land* published a few years ago, which describes every operation on the farm the whole year round, will I think agree with me that it is an amazing record of technical accuracy — whether achieved by personal experience, careful observation or painstaking enquiry I do not know. At any rate I can find no slip, nothing wrong in word, description or even emphasis, which is unusual if not unique in the writings of those who see romance in the life of the farm.

Land Girl's Tribute

Three times recently I have given a lift to Land Army girls on the road and in no case had they even heard of the new book. I searched the October number of *The Land Girl*, the W.L.A. official magazine, and found no notice of it. I did find, however, a touching tribute. It was an open letter from Land Girl No. 9600. "Dear Miss Sackville-West," it ran, "As one of the first working members of the W.L.A. I want to say 'Thank you' for your book giving the official story of our war effort. . . . You've managed to show us as the very human beings we are — neither too grim nor, thank Heaven, too glamorous and above all, no figures of fun. . . . This is a volume we shall be glad and proud to keep on our shelves and show to our children and our grandchildren when they ask us what we did in Britain's darkest, finest hour." Well done, No. 9600, and well done Miss Sackville-West! It must be nice to get a letter like that.

Poetry

In this same little magazine I lighted on what seemed to me a few lines of pure poetry and I cannot refrain from putting them on record. They were in a little contribution called *Harvest Home* signed E. M. B. Perhaps I was unduly romantic but I pictured E. M. B. working manfully on the farm but her heart and thoughts

far away on the fields of France or Italy or perchance in the air or on Arctic convoy. In her poem she describes the weary toil of the year:

Long are the days from snowy winter seed time,
Long are the days through biting winds of March,

And April's laughing showers and May's sweet green.

And so on. Some lines are a little elementary and unpolished. But read these four lines as a climax to the year's toil and the year's longings:

The fields are quiet now, the corn is carted.
The harvest moon dreams on the empty land.

You are my harvest home, the last rich sheaf,
My tired arms shall gather to my heart.

These last two couplets are surely excellent: each of them is a complete poem in itself. But *Farming Notes* is perhaps hardly the place to enlarge on them. I should like to know whether Mr. Bernard Darwin and other contributors skilled in word and phrase hold the same high opinion of them as does this struggling farmer. However, perhaps no one but a struggling farmer can fully realise the emotional appeal of *Harvest Home*.

More Freedom for Fruit

During the war there have been severe restrictions on the cultivation of fruit, and the planting of bush fruit and strawberries has been prohibited except for such purposes as replacement of grubbed-up trees or the filling up of gaps in orchards, and then only within the limits of the 1939 acreage.

I understand that this limitation need no longer be observed, and that the Ministry has authorised committees to give their consent to new planting irrespective of the 1939 fruit acreage provided that (1) this does not interfere with the acreages required for priority crops, (2) the land is suitable for fruit growing and (3) intercropping of the newly planted fruit with food crops is carried out to the greatest extent that is practicable.

Harvesting Mangolds

Lifting mangolds is always a problem. On heavy land we want to get the carting done while the land is still dry and sometimes we want to get the land cleared early for Autumn cultivations. The crop is still growing on all through October and gaining in weight. On the other hand if we are half way through pulling them when the first frosts come there may be serious damage. The earlier the roots are lifted, the longer should they be in the field before clamping and with risks of frosts about this means seeing that they are put in small heaps and well covered with leaves. As there is considerable difference in the dates when different varieties come to maturity, those of us who grow any considerable acreage might perhaps with advantage take more trouble than we do in sowing a portion of our acreage with an early maturing variety.

I see in the agricultural Press that one or two brave pioneers are adopting a new method of handling this crop. They postpone pulling until they fully mature, that is to say until the leaves are dying off. They then cart the mangolds straight off the field without topping to the clamp. This of course represents a considerable saving in labour and is surely one of those practical methods that should be subjected to detailed experiment and tests. A. B.

THE ESTATE MARKET

PROPERTY SALES
OF £250,000

VARIOUS transactions, in which estates combining residential, sporting and agricultural attributes are prominent, and approximately 180 sales of houses, sites, business premises and ground rents, have aggregated over £250,000 in the last fortnight or so. Doubtless there are other transactions which have not yet been disclosed, and the variety and volume of the business are eloquent of the confidence of investors in real estate, for the properties, not excepting some of the large agricultural ones, have passed into the hands of buyers who look on them primarily as investments.

At Wingworth Manor, near Market Harborough, Leicestershire, including the old mansion and 852 acres, has been sold for £39,000, by Messrs. John Wood and Co., Mr. J. Toller Eady and Messrs. Turner, Fletcher and Fox.

HISTORIC FARM-HOUSES

THE Dean and Chapter of Peterborough received a grant at the Dissolution of the Monasteries, of a Tudor house and just over 120 acres on the Northampton and Lincoln border at Glinton. Before that time it had been successively held by the Abbeys of Peterborough and Crowland. By auction locally the freehold has just realised £14,000. The house, one mile from Peakirk Station, is an exceptionally beautiful old stone residence. The agents were Messrs. Dakin and Wright.

Old Hulme Hall, at Allostock, near Knutsford, reputed to have been the original home of the Grosvenor family, has been sold for £14,000. The moat can still be seen. The freehold, extending to approximately 260 acres, very rich farming land, has been bought by Imperial Chemical Industries, at Northwich.

About 400 acres of Addington House estate, Croydon, Surrey, have been sold by Messrs. P. J. May, who have in previous years sold portions of the same once very extensive estate.

BARLETHORPE

THE impending sale of Barlethorpe, the late Earl of Lonsdale's Oakham house, affords an opportunity of acquiring a property of nearly 600 acres in the centre of the Cottesmore country, and conveniently placed for meets of the Quorn and other packs. Thomas Noel, in *The Book of Hounds* published in 1732, makes the earliest mention of the Cottesmore. In 1788 Sir William Lowther bought the pack and hunted the country for 14 or 15 years. Sir Richard Sutton and Sir John Trollope (later Lord Kesteven) were among subsequent Masters of the Cottesmore. From 1870, for about six years, Colonel Henry Lowther (late Lord Lonsdale) and then, for a couple of years, his son were masters. Provision will be made by Messrs. Walker, Walton and Hanson, if an auction has to be held, to deal with the property as a whole or in lots.

FUTURE OF CLUMBER PARK
THE National Trust aims at raising £45,000 to secure Clumber Park, the Duke of Newcastle's seat in North Nottinghamshire, for preservation as a permanent open space for public enjoyment. It is a condition of the option that the amount be paid by the end of the year.

The announcement that Clumber Park was for sale was made in this column on July 21. Until 1800 half of the 1,000 acres of the park was grazing between 3,000 and 4,000 sheep. Later it was transformed into a perfect park, and the river Poult was utilised to make the lake of 90 acres. The famous

double row of lime trees was planted to form "the Duke's Avenue."

WADHURST PARK

WHEN Mr. Grant MacLean, the vendor of Wadhurst Park (the sale of which was reported in last week's issue), purchased a famous Sussex estate, he succeeded to a property that had for a long while belonged to the De Murrieta family, friends of King Edward VII. His Majesty's visits to them were frequent, and the special provision they made for the illustrious guest included a bathroom panelled in Norwegian marble. He had a bedroom about 27 ft. square, and a dressing-room, 16 ft. 6 ins. long and 13 ft. 6 ins. wide, fitted in mahogany. Some of the bedrooms were illustrated in the elaborate particulars which Messrs. Knight, Frank and Rutley prepared for the auction, and very odd even the most spacious bed appears in the great rooms, and there is an incredible profusion of curtains and other textile adornments. There are half-a-dozen suites of bedrooms, each with dressing-room and bathroom, and a "bachelors' floor."

What a contrast such a mansion presents to the early Victorian seats so vividly described by Surtees and other novelists of that period. In these days of change, when so many of our great houses are being put to new uses, and habits and means are undergoing a radical alteration, such records of what they looked like, and the dimensions and fitting-up and furnishing of the various apartments, as may be found in the more detailed of auction particulars, have an eventual value as records beyond their immediate purpose of the sale.

SPORTING AND FARMING

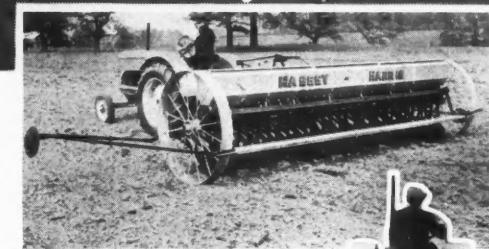
As a sporting estate Wadhurst has always ranked high. The large lake of 30 acres and the small ponds near it have been the haunt of innumerable wild duck. Seven guns on one occasion made a bag of 800 duck, and the records of the shooting contain entries of over 1,000 in a single day. Many seasons have shown a bag of 1,000 pheasants. Streams on the estate provide trout fishing, and the lake yields carp up to 12 lb. It is interesting to compare the conditions of sale of this and similar estates nowadays with those of only a few years ago. To-day particulars refer to town planning, the restriction of ribbon development, the Rent Restriction Acts, war damage levies and rights and requisition. At the most the Agricultural Holdings Act was mentioned in the past, and it finds inclusion, with the other and new legislative matters, in the present instance. The farms have good houses and ample buildings, and Combe Manor is a carefully restored black-and-white house of 16th-century origin.

PARTICULARS IN LIBRARIES

As there may not be many more particulars of so minutely detailed a type, regarding property in the market, it is worth while to add that before the auction copies could be had for half-a-crown, which was plainly a nominal figure much below the cost of production. A fairly complete collection of the particulars of the chief sales throughout England and Wales with marked prices existed at the old Mart in Tokenhouse Yard. It may not be generally known that a few of the principal properties offered in recent years have been the subject of particulars which have been added to the University Libraries of Oxford and Cambridge, and some have been deemed worthy to be kept in the British Museum.

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NEW BOOKS

HUMAN STORIES OF THE VILLAGE

Reviews by HOWARD SPRING

MR. MICHAEL HOME wrote a number of excellent novels whose scene was the little-known part of Norfolk called Breckland. If he had chanced to fall into the hands of the classifiers he would have been called a "regional" novelist. This is a most silly expression. Since every novel (with the exception of fantasy) has to be about people living in some place, and since every place is a region, then every novel is "regional." But the most ridiculous things are written under this head. Not long ago I found Thomas Hardy listed as a regional novelist: Hardy, whose "region" is heaven and hell and all the heart of man! That, indeed, is the region of every novelist, and whether his characters live in Arcady, Belgravia or Birmingham has nothing to do with the case. I recently found a critic calling a novel "the finest regional novel written in this century." Well, since novels are about men and women and are not about regions (which are the concern of guide-books) this amounts to saying that the novel in question was the finest written in this century, but the critic, I think, would not accept this interpretation of his words.

A LOVELY WORK

To get back to Mr. Home, let it suffice to say that these early novels were about men and women living in Breckland, that the men and women and the district itself were beautifully rendered, and that Mr. Home showed himself to be a novelist of worth. Then he deserted Breckland and began to write Buchan-esque novels about romantic figures in the service of Military Intelligence. I believe I am right in saying that financially these were more successful than the books about Breckland folk, and this is no happy comment on the discrimination of British readers. Now Mr. Home has gone back to Breckland, not with a novel but with the story of his own early years in the village of Heathley. He calls the book *Autumn Fields* (Methuen, 12s. 6d.). It is a richly-human and lovely piece of work, and no reader with a taste for the authentic will want to miss it.

Looking on the happy autumn fields And thinking of the days that are no more.

So Tennyson wrote, and "the days that are no more" make up the matter of these pages. Even fifty years ago, which is the time dealt with, the days that are no more were heavy over Breckland, for it is a region that the years devour. Bracken, sand and rabbits erode its villages as the sea erodes the edges of loamy cliffs; but the Forestry Commission is now taking some interest in the place and maybe change will arrest decay. "In Tudor times," says Mr. Home of his village, "the population was in the

neighbourhood of a thousand; in my grandfather's time it was still a flourishing place with two annual markets and various fairs, and a population of about seven hundred. Fifty years ago the population was about five hundred, and to-day it is probably less than three."

There was a squire, but already in the times that have borne heavily on squires had come to Breckland, and the squire did not live in the hall. A commercial gentleman was installed there, and his flunkies, keepers and general hangers-on constituted a powerful hierarchy. Church and State had a real meaning in Heathley. The Church, happily, had a fine and worthy representative in the parson—a venerable man who had once been head of a public school—known to all as "the Reverend." The State, in Squire Green—always so called to differentiate him from the "real" squire who was not living in the hall—was not so well represented.

THE SQUIRE'S REVENGE

It was no fun in those days to be in open opposition to the State's representative in the village, and it was in that light that the villagers looked on Squire Green. Mr. Home's father was a small farmer, a Methodist, and an outspoken Liberal in politics. This, in those days, amounted to being something even worse than a Socialist—that is, a Radical. Farmer Home and Squire Green fell foul of one another in an election, and "not another penny shall he earn from the Hall" was the punishment inflicted. Farmer Home had been supplying, mending and replacing the hundreds of coops and wooden runs used in pheasant rearing, and Squire Green's fiat was disastrous. "It took years to recover from the financial consequences."

Pheasants, hares and rabbits had a large place in the economy of Heathley. It was a village of poachers. Meat was scarce, the thin bracken-invaded land was not good for crops, and there the dinners were, scuttling into burrows, perched on branches, pricking ears under the moon. The author and his father were both in the game up to the neck, and so were the keepers. They were as keen poachers as any, and as Farmer Home had rock-bottom evidence concerning the doings of some of them, his own nocturnal adventures were by that much the safer.

No morals entered into this matter. Farmer Home was a rigid Methodist and in his own house a stern law-giver. But the game-laws did not exist for him or for anyone else in the village. What they wanted they took if they could take it.

The whole economy of the village is displayed for us. We see it as a social unit, and we are shown its individuals one by one. The gaies as

AUTUMN FIELDS

By Michael Home

(Methuen, 12s. 6d.)

RICHARD JEFFERIES' LONDON

By Samuel J. Looker

(Lutterworth Press, 8s. 6d.)

THE SHRIMP AND THE ANEMONE

By L. P. Hartley

(Putnam, 8s. 6d.)

well as the struggle shines through the pages: the moments when, thanks largely to the broad humanity of "the Reverend," the religious and social cleavage summed up in the words "church" and "chapel" was bridged, the sports and pastimes, the calm domestic interiors as well as the sweatily outdoors with its toils of sowing and harvest.

VILLAGE METHODISM

Nowhere have I found a finer account of village Methodism than in this book. Like the young Arnold Bennett, Mr. Home was steeped in Methodism, and he looks back on it with tolerance tinged with affection. Bennett, in his Journal, has an account of walking on a depressing Winter night through the London streets and coming upon a chapel from which the notes of hymn-singing surged out. He lists this for a while, "and," he writes, "I had the thought of my youth." A New England parson once said to me: "If you Bennett understood everything about Methodism except its soul." Of Mr. Home we may truthfully say that the soul of those village enthusiasts is here laid bare by a tender and loving hand.

From these pages it is to be gathered that the author is still living in Heckland. His publishers announce a new novel dealing with Military Intelligence. I hope it will be an enormous success, so that he will feel that he may again, and with safety, turn to a novel of this district, which has produced no finer writer than himself.

RICHARD JEFFERIES' WORKS

There is not much that is new to be said about Richard Jefferies at this time of day. One either knows him and likes him or one doesn't, and those who know him cannot be too grateful to Mr. Samuel J. Looker for his efforts to introduce him to those who don't. Mr. Looker has now compiled a collection of Jefferies' writings under the title *Richard Jefferies' London* (Lutterworth Press, 8s. 6d.). In the course of his short life Jefferies spent a good deal of time in and about London, and, like W. H. Hudson, he could not help being aware of the way in which fragments of country life subsisted within the great synthetic web of the metropolis. It was not merely birds and trees and water that attracted him. He was sharply aware of the beauty that man creates for himself, and in the statues of the British Museum and the pictures of the National Gallery he found much refreshment.

LONDON'S MILLIONS

In this book Mr. Looker has assembled Jefferies' London writings from many sources. Despite the many attractive things to be found in it, Jefferies was disturbed rather than exalted by the spectacle of the mighty city. Looking at the crowds rushing hither and thither within it, he asks: "Where will be these millions of today in a hundred years? But, further than that, let us ask where, then, will be the sum and outcome of their labour? If they wither away like Summer grass, will not at least a result be left which those of a hundred years hence may be the better for? No, not one jot! There will not be any sum or outcome or result of this ceaseless labour and movement; it vanishes in the moment that it is done, and in a hundred years nothing will be there, for nothing is there now. There will be no more sum or result than accumulates from the motion of a revolving cowl on a house-top."

Nor do they receive any more sunshine during their lives, for they are unconscious of the sun."

This is from *The Story of My Heart*, and emphasis to this pessimistic view is given by the strange romance called *After London*, published two years later and two years before Jefferies died, in his thirties. Mr. Looker ends his collection with an extract from this work, a haunting picture of the malarial swamps and pestilential fens in which the bones of the great city rot and fester and poison the air. This job has altogether been well done.

PENETRATING WRITING

Save as a journalist, Mr. L. P. Hartley is not a prolific writer, but all that he writes deserves the attention of those who enjoy contact with a sensitive mind and a delicate, penetrating fashion of writing. Delicacy, indeed, is usually penetrating. The stiletto gets deeper than the truncheon. Mr. Hartley's new book is a novel called *The Shrimp and the Anemone* (Putnam, 8s. 6d.). It is a study of a small, imaginative boy's reactions to the circumstances and the people about him. If you know the work of Mr. Forrest Reid, you will have some measure of Mr. Hartley's method and success.

The key point about young Eustace is that he is what the psychologists would call an introvert, and nearly everyone he was in contact with was an extrovert. This was true even of the one who did the best for him, his slightly older sister Hilda: though physically sympathetic, she never really understood what was happening in Eustace's mind. As for the rest of them: his dull and unimaginative father, his fussy, efficient aunt, and the brazen little exhibitionist Nancy for whom he had a child's precocious passion: all these seemed to exist for no other reason than to throw spanners into his delicate mental mechanism.

WELL WORTH MEETING

Eustace's at first shrinking and then appreciative contact with an old lady disfigured by illness is his main spiritual adventure, and Mr. Hartley manages this difficult subject with great understanding. We hope that Eustace learned his lesson: that behind the ugly-physical there may be great riches of the spirit, that things are not always what they seem, and that it is as well not to accept either bogeys or fairies till they have produced their identity cards. But even when we leave him, Eustace still has a long way to go. He is well worth meeting.

ILLUSION

*ACROSS the fields grown plain
With Autumn
A host of brown birds swirl and hover,
Then, held against the wind, defenceless
They fall like husks. Illusion over.
A sheet of dead leaves hides the grass
That is long faded, tired of growing;
My heart that leapt to see wings pass
Drops like a stone. The cold wind blowing*

*Searches trees and strips the heather
Of sweetness, blasts the backward flower.
Delight has strangely lost its savour
And love itself outworn the hour.*

PHOEBE HESKETH.



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THE LONG EVENING DRESS RETURNS



PHOTOGRAPHS DERMOT CONOLLY

A NEW feeling for elegance has emerged this Winter and brought about the revival of the ankle-length evening frock. More parties are being given and the possibility of a basic petrol ration has added an impetus to this desire for a return to more formal dressing. The veto on private cars and the dearth of taxis had almost killed the long frock in London. Simplicity and the slim silhouette remain with the long frocks as with the short, but, while most of them are so straight in cut as to be almost devoid of movement, they all have a touch of glamour about them somewhere, an exotic beaded or ribbon belt, a necklace collar of jewels that ties over the plain neckline, one huge gathered pocket drawn up by lamé ribbons, sparkling jewelled or jet buttons. And almost all of them are worn with enchanting evening hats, for the evening hat and headdress has returned with the long frocks.

The majority of the long-skirted frocks are in heavy rayon crépes and marocains, some in brocade and lamé, fine wool, velvet, a few in printed silks. There are as many in colours as in black, and it is the glowing colours of precious stones or clear incisive pastels, particularly blues, that are the favourites. The sheath silhouette, generally beltless, but with the waistline

● (Left) Magnificent plum and gold brocade cut on mediæval lines with a pointed bodice and full skirt. Marshall and Snelgrove

● (Below) Sheath frock with slit skirt. Hydrangea blue marocain with silver and gold studding down the front. Sequin bag. Both are from Debenham and Freebody



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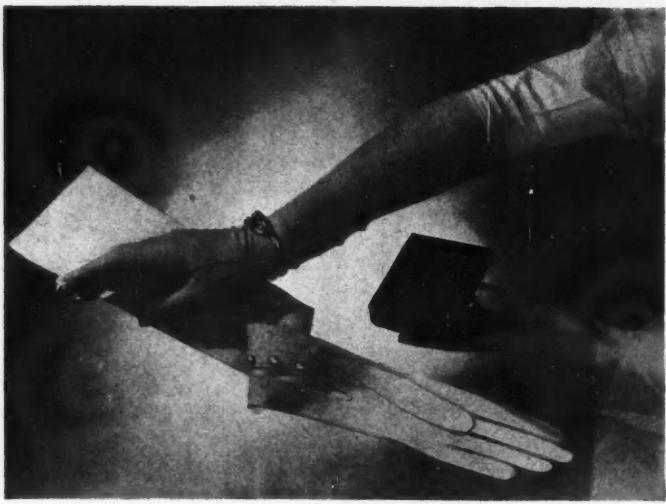
creation



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defined by a shaped band or geometric cutting, holds first place. This sheath frock has a *décolletage* cut away noticeably, not low judged by pre-war standards but definitely more so than for some years. It is either a V, heart-shaped, square or wedge. Sleeves are all lengths from the short ruched sleeves of Rahvis to the long tight sleeves of the gorgeous mediæval brocades shown at Marshall and Snelgrove. Fichu sleeves and cape sleeves are given to the dresses in lighter materials with a godet movement in the skirts. Hartnell shows a charming black crêpe frock, slim as a pencil, with a bolero top stiff with gold braid, looped intricately in an Eastern pattern. Digby Morton makes his slim dinner dresses from the rich black brochê silks of the Victorians and cuts away the neckline into a low wedge. These are the frocks that set off the wide encrusted baroque bracelets and necklines to perfection. On the other side of the picture there are the pastel marocains sparkling with diamanté and crystal studding, so slim about the skirts as to be almost a "hobble." These are prettiest in blues and almond greens.

SLIM sheaths of black skirts with fancy evening blouses or lamé jackets are another favourite style of the Winter. The skirts are generally in black velvet or crêpe, some with a high shaped corselet top, others with a deep shaped flounce from the knees. Mr. Luker of Jay's has designed an evening blouse and skirt outfit for the new Aimée Stuart play which is to be produced in Paris next month. The skirt is black and has two blouses, a chartreuse chiffon with a low V neckline, a folded bodice, long immensely full sleeves and a green chiffon sash that ties round over the high corselet top of the skirt



Long gloves in French suede, a gold serpent bracelet, a compact in grained leather. The White House

turbans hide almost all hair but a widow's peak on the forehead. The more exotic the material the smarter the turban. Chalk-white turbans are terrific with an all-black outfit; so are towering fur or angora busbies. Alexandra toques in tulle with a nodding plume and a flower nestling here and there are shown by Erik; so are tiny discs of velvet sailors foaming with ostrich and tied on with yards of tulle veiling. These hats are worn well on top of the head in true Edwardian fashion, and the hair is swept up to them. Skull caps sparkling with sequins and fluttering bows are shown for the woman who wears her hair down or cut to a shortish curly shingle. Handbags in delicate brocades, sequins and diamanté have appeared to accompany the formal dresses and hats. So have a variety of capes, boleros, jackets and tunics in furs.

P. JOYCE REYNOLDS.

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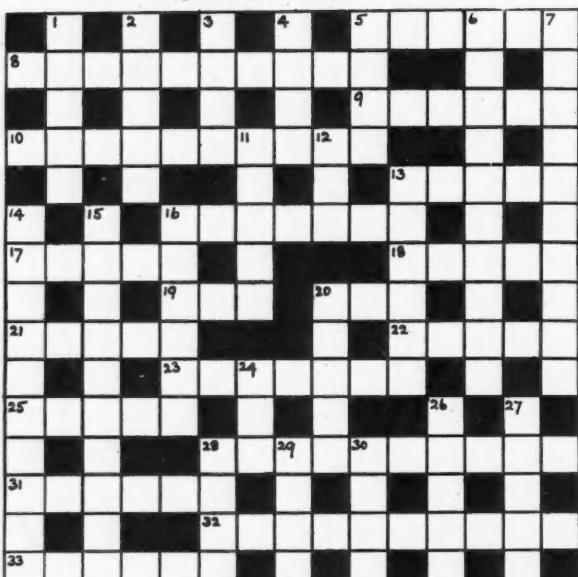


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CROSSWORD No. 772

Two guineas will be awarded for the first correct solution opened. Solutions (in a closed envelope) must reach "Crossword No. 772, COUNTRY LIFE, 2-10, Tavistock Street, Covent Garden, London, W.C.2," not later than the first post on Thursday, November 16, 1944.

NOTE.—This Competition does not apply to the United States.



Name.....
(Mr., Mrs., etc.)
Address.....

SOLUTION TO NO. 771. The winner of this Crossword, the clues of which appeared in the issue of November 3, will be announced next week.

ACROSS.—1, Toad-in-the-hole; 10, Nothing; 11, Antonio; 12, Upas; 13, Heath; 14, Wren; 15, Saddens; 18, Satinet; 19, Aspires; 22, Coracle; 24, Toes; 25, Smear; 26, Dial; 29, Aviator; 30, Idiotic; 31, Starting-point. **DOWN.**—2, Outward; 3, Dais; 4, Nuggets; 5, Hearths; 6, Huts; 7, Long run; 8, Insubstantial; 9, Round the clock; 15, Ferry; 18, Stork; 20, Predict; 21, Samurai; 22, Chasing; 23, Clifton; 27, Star; 28, Dido.

ACROSS.

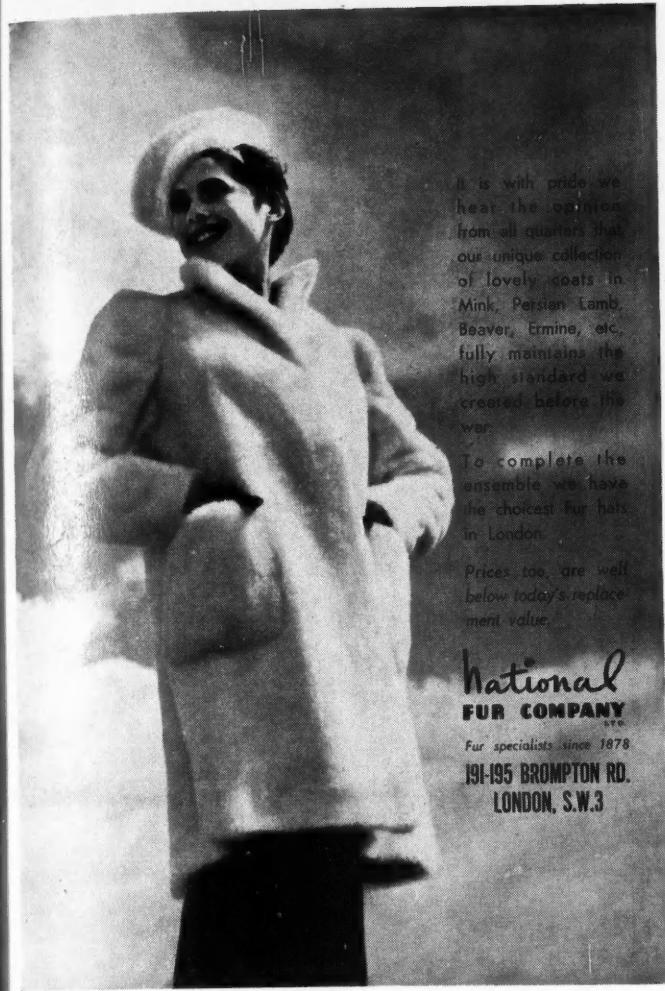
- 5. It's not merely in the nursery he makes his bow (wow) (3, 3)
- 8. Are they the soldiers who cry, "Rise, danger!"? (10)
- 9. Shrewd (6)
- 10. Sweet and brown; keep it dry in spite of a contrary suggestion (5, 5)
- 13. Heartless Barbara (5)
- 16. Is it in handy containers nowadays for the road-hog's dinner? (3, 4)
- 17. What the hospitable may keep open (5)
- 18. A cad about a hundred turns round in India (5)
- 19. Pluto occupies most of the dish (3)
- 20. If the place were south-east it would give us pause (3)
- 21. Tanganyika river with laughing mouth? (5)
- 22. Ink helps to make a slit (5)
- 23. Does the music of the sea provide him with his obvious tune? (7)
- 25. Attacks suddenly (3, 2)
- 28. Did Gilbert intend them for the baby? (3, 7)
- 31. Not transparent (6)
- 32. The men love laughs at (10)
- 33. With regard to what's dispatched you are right to be indignant (6)

DOWN.

- 1. The shepherd's is no petty offender (5)
- 2. Certainly not unemployed (2, 3)
- 3. Date the Caesar ought not to have kept (4)
- 4. Old scamp in *Our Mutual Friend* (4)
- 5. Look in at Sardinia and you will find him (4)
- 6. Chin-chin, in fact (6, 4)
- 7. "On the _____ of Shannon, when Sheelagh was nigh,
No blithe Irish lad was as happy as I."
- 11. Impels (5) —Thomas Campbell (5, 5)
- 12. Shakespeare provides much of it (3)
- 13. Cite (6)
- 14 and 29. Jerome dramatised his passing (5, 5, 4)
- 15. They've 354 days apiece, and you'll say it's all moonshine (5, 5)
- 16. He's not so learned as you might think (6)
- 20. Leaden mass, but rather fruity (5)
- 24. One is said to be as like as another (3)
- 26. Lap it (anagr.) (5)
- 27. I'd a house in this state—you'll easily spot it! (5)
- 28. Orion's glittering girdle, perhaps (4)
- 29. See 14
- 30. More than one of 24 upset in church (4)

The winner of Crossword No. 770 is:

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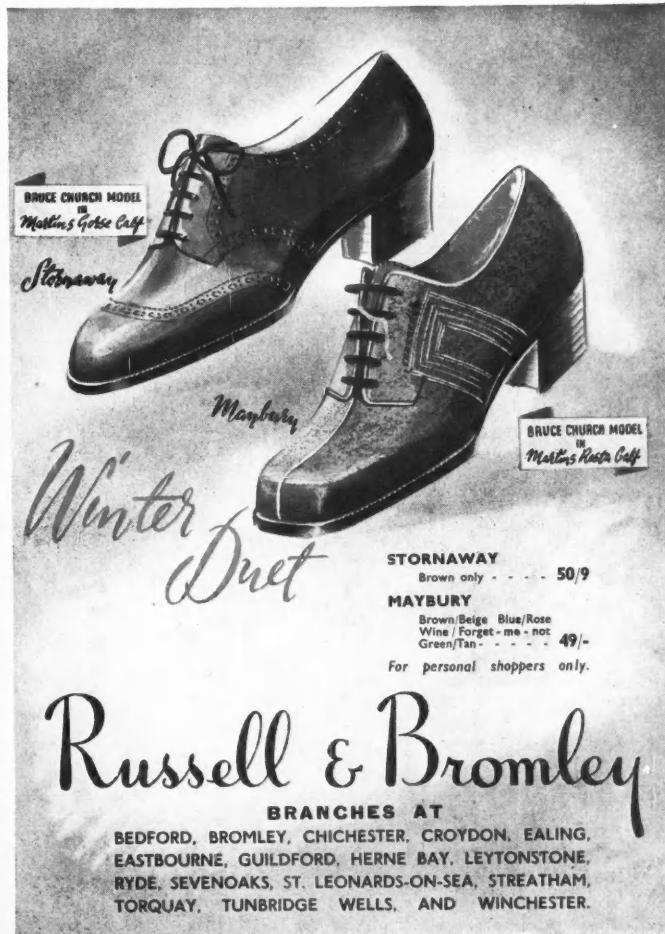
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